Hafa Adai!

Volunteer Max Aguon is presented with Senate resolution. PAGE 3

NMC is committed to fostering diversity—regents. PAGE 6

$1

Saipan Tribune

COURTESY VISIT
Participants of the Junior State of America's Civics Institute Micronesia pose for a photo with CNMI Gov. Arnold I. Palacios during a courtesy call at the Office of the Governor. Ten high school students from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are taking college-level courses in media and democracy at Northern Marianas College for about a week as part of the program. ***See story on Page 4.***

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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CPA approves LOI for DOD's $500M Tinian Port project

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has approved the U.S. Department of Defense's request for a letter of intent for its $500-million project to improve the Tinian harbor.

During a special meeting yesterday, July 6, CPA's board of directors adopted a resolution and a letter of intent for DOD's Tinian Port Joint Area Development Project, which would cover port construction, repair, and maintenance of the Tinian harbor.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who participated in the

See CPA on Page 4

NMC gets good audit report but…

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has received a good audit report from independent auditor Burger Comer Magliari, which audited NMC's financial statements for the years ended Sept. 30, 2022 and 2021, but did find three significant deficiencies relating to payroll.

Burger Comer Magliari, which was hired by the Office of the Public Auditor to do the audit on NMC, informed the college's board of regents, about their findings last June 27. OPA released the report to the media yesterday.

The auditor said it is their opinion that NMC's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position

See NMC on Page 4

USDOL OKs CNMI 2023 Prevailing Wage report

The U.S. Department of Labor has approved the CNMI's 2023 Prevailing Wage Study Report for the CW-1 visa program. Effective from July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2024, the new wages will be implemented for CW-1 determinations.

"The recent approval of the Prevailing Wage Study report ensures fair and competitive wages for CW-1 workers on our islands," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "We remain

See USDOL on Page 4

Fire engulfs car following crash

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fire personnel from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services check out the burned vehicle after putting out the flames.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A car was found engulfed in flames following a crash in Dandan early yesterday morning.

The car reportedly crashed into a power pole along the Dandan main road at around 8:50am yesterday, July 6, and immediately burst into flames.

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
The officers of the USS *John Finn* were special guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.
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NATION
A rash of shootings as the U.S. celebrated the Fourth of July is spiking fears in communities.
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LIFE & STYLE
Five years after her death, the final wishes of superstar Aretha Franklin are still unsettled.
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Local

Ogo bill would require CCTVs in businesses

Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) has pre-filed a bill that would require businesses in the CNMI to install short circuit cameras in their premises.

Ogo's House Bill 23-63, or the proposed "CCTV Act of 2023," was originally introduced by former representative Richard Lizama in 2019, which Ogo discovered during her research to formulate a bill facilitating effective criminal investigation. The bill, however, died without further action, but Ogo strongly agreed with such a measure and felt it was necessary to effectively address criminal activities, especially crimes that impact commercial activities. She, therefore, amended the original version and pre-filed it.

The main features of the proposed bill are as follows: 1) Require all businesses to install color digital short-circuit cameras at access and exit points and at cash-out counters, to be recorded continuously for 24 hours, seven days a week, except open farm fields and mobile vending vehicles and trailers or those that do not have a permanent and stationary place of the business established; 2) recordings are to be kept for 60 days; 3) it mandates the Department of Public Safety to promulgate rules for certification of compliance or extension on installation date to be submitted at the Department of Finance, Licensing Division with new or renewal of business license applications and use fees to establish a subsidy program for businesses that are financially challenged; 4) authorization for police to have access to recordings during a criminal investigation that occurred at the premise and allows, under subpoena, for civil litigants, through their attorneys, access to copies of the recordings; 5) all fees collected will support enforcement operation, subsidy program, and crime prevention programs.

"Anything that will assist law enforcement effectiveness is necessary for a successful flow of commerce on our islands. It is not only for the local businesses but for the safety of our community, including our visitors," said Ogo. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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Volunteer Max Aguon is presented with Senate resolution

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marcelino "Max" Aguon, fourth from left, holds the Senate resolution that commends him for his volunteer work after a presentation ceremony last June 30 in the Senate chambers.

Marcelino "Max" B. Aguon, who is a long-time volunteer in beautifying and cleaning the environment, was presented with a CNMI Senate resolution last Friday, June 30, that lauded his civic-mindedness and voluntary spirit.

Senate Resolution 23-05 commends Aguon for his principled contributions to the community, particularly in cleaning up beaches and maintaining the villages' surroundings. "This act of service for the CNMI does not only serve as an effort to enhance the Commonwealth's environment, but [is] also an effort to lead by example and educate the youth and adults of the Commonwealth, as well as all the visitors that frequent these areas, on what significant value beautification of [the] CNMI holds," part of the resolutions states.

The resolution was introduced by Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and was adopted last April 2.

Aguon was a community worker for the Commonwealth Legislature in 2010-2011, was a grounds maintenance coordinator for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in 2013, and is now, since 2013, a worker for the DLNR-Division of Parks and Recreation. He was named DLNR's 2021-2022 Employee of the Year and Parks and Recreation's Employee of the Year in 2022.

For the third year in a row, Aguon was recently awarded free gas for a year by San Jose Mobil and received a plaque of appreciation from JEMCO Ltd., which owns the gas station.

Aguon thanks DPA Car Mart for their donation of a free car that he uses to drive around and clean the environment, and thanks Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero.

Aguon hopes more people will join him in being responsible and caring for the environment and said that he has no intention of stopping volunteering his time for the community.

CPA responds to inquiries about the availability of properties for lease

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has received several inquiries from private companies and individuals regarding the availability of CPA property for lease for, among other things, fuel storage and distribution facilities, at the CPA airport or seaport properties.

CPA is aware of a publication by the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency soliciting an offer submission package for fuel storage and in-plane fuel services at various locations in the Pacific and Asia, including Saipan and Rota.

With respect to the land area that may be required, CPA informs that there is sufficient real property and commercial space at its airport and seaport properties on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. All potential interested parties may submit proposals and likewise CPA may issue a "notice of realty action" to solicit proposals as it determines appropriate. The agency will consider leasing real property and any commercial spaces subject to appropriate lease agreements, payment of fees and agreement to terms required by CPA.

All interested parties or persons may make further review of CPA's regulations which can be found at the CNMI Law Revision Commission website as follows:

- https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/cnmiregister/2021_Volume_43/2021_Number_05.pdf
- https://www.cnmilaw.org/pdf/cnmiregister/2021_Volume_43/2021_Number_09.pdf

All interested parties are informed that CPA's "notice of realty action" regarding properties for potential commercial lease are subject to the agency's determination as to the appropriate use of such properties inclusive of environmental, commercial and safety restrictions or concerns. Inasmuch as the OSP by the Defense Logistics Agency involves the large-scale bunkering or storage of A-1 jet fuel, interested parties are further urged to inform themselves of the water aquifers, wells and public water system of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on CPA premises. ***(CPA)***

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JSA, NMC host Civics Institute Micronesia for 2nd year in a row

Ten high school students from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands spent the last week on Saipan taking college-level courses in media and democracy at Northern Marianas College as part of the Junior State of America's Civics Institute Micronesia.

For the second year in a row, NMC was selected by JSA to be the host institution for its newest summer program, Civics Institute Micronesia, a weeklong residential program on Saipan designed to engage high school students with the most pressing issues facing the Pacific today and to challenge them to look beyond differences and focus on action-oriented solutions. Participants gain a complete understanding of critical issues directly from the decision-makers who shape public policy and apply lessons learned to generate ideas for direct action in their communities.

In partnership with NMC, the program's core course is Media and Democracy, which is taught by journalist and NMC adjunct instructor Thomas Mangloña II, who is an alumnus of the University of California at Berkeley, where he obtained a B.A. in Media Studies as a Gates Millenium Scholar, and graduated with an M.A. in Journalism from Stanford University, where he was a Harry S. Truman Scholar. He is currently the chief regional correspondent for KUAM News on Saipan.

"These students have critically engaged with issues to our democracy," Mangloña said. "They've selected topics such as domestic violence, government corruption, and discrimination to focus on this week and have not shied away from asking hard questions or having hard conversations. People often say the youth are our next generation of leaders, but JSA proves that they have arrived and are already leading."

The program's featured speakers include CNMI Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the CNMI Supreme Court, the CNMI Superior Court, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

This year, the 10 students selected to attend Civics Institute Micronesia are:

- CC Tessie Mori (FSM, Xavier High School)
- Jeremiah Suliol (FSM, Xavier High School)
- John Vincent Retalmai (FSM, Xavier High School)
- Karen Semens (FSM, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School)
- Karishma Paul (FSM, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School)
- Kayla Yamada Irons (FSM, Pohnpei Seventh-Day Adventist School)
- Nia Wase (Marshall Islands, Majuro Cooperative School)
- Ryu Nakasone (FSM, Xavier High School)
- Yu Nakasone (FSM, Xavier High School)
- Yuji Silbanuz (FSM, Pohnpei Seventh-Day Adventist School) ***(PR)***

NMC

From page 1

of the college as of Sept. 30, 2022 and 2021.

The auditor said NMC's changes in financial position and cash flows for the years ended in accordance with generally accepted U.S. accounting principles.

The auditor said it is their opinion that the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

NMC's net position was $39,597,882 and $34,689,505 as of Sept.30, 2022 and 2021, respectively, and experienced an increase of $4,908,377 in fiscal year 2022.

The college's total assets increased $6,469,552 in fiscal year 2022. Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources during fiscal year 2022 increased to $1,561,176.

Burger said they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses.

They did identify, however, certain deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be significant deficiencies.

But Burger said the results of their tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

The auditor said it is their opinion that NMC complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended Sept. 30, 2022.

Burger said they believe that the audit evidence they have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their opinion on compliance for each major federal programs.

On financial statements and federal awards, the auditor found three significant deficiencies.

On the first and second items, the criteria are that NMC's internal control policies and procedures require that personnel action forms must be reviewed and approved prior to the renewal of employment.

With respect to the first item, the auditor said for one of 115 items tested, or 1% of the sample, they noted that the personnel action form was signed after the effective date of the renewal of the employment.

Regarding the second item, the auditor said for three of 115 items tested, or 3% of the samples selected for testing, they noted that the renewed employment contract was signed after the effective date of the employment.

The auditor found that NMC did not comply with their payroll internal control requirements in which personnel action forms should be signed prior to renewal of employment.

With this situation, the auditor said, the employee is working without properly documented approval from authorized personnel.

The auditor said this happened as the NMC staff who are responsible for monitoring personnel renewals did not review these personnel files in a timely manner.

The auditor recommended that human resources personnel adhere to the internal control policies and procedures relevant to renewal of employment.

The auditor said ample time to process employment documents should be available to ensure that the required approvals are obtained prior to renewal of employment.

Adding another recommendation with respect to item number 2, the auditor said NMC should maintain and review a schedule showing the expiration dates of all existing employment contracts to ensure that renewals are processed before the expiration dates.

Item 3 was with respect to U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Services, in which the auditor found significant deficiency and repeat finding from a prior audit.

The criteria are that the Code of Federal Regulations on cost principles, allowable costs must be adequately documented and that charges to federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed.

These records must be supported by a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated.

Further, according to the Code of Federal Regulations, records such as employment contracts or agreements must be retained by employers for at least three years from their last effective date.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

USDOL

From page 1

dedicated to fostering a favorable environment for both our local workforce, businesses, and the CW-1 visa program participants."

Foreign workers in the CNMI usually fall within the CW-1 visa immigration category. The Prevailing Wage Study sets the prevailing wage rate per category of worker and is used to set the wages of foreign workers.

A total of 848 Standard Occupational Classification Detailed Titles are found in the U.S. economy—486 Detailed Titles were captured by the CNMI 2023 PWS. The U.S. Department of Labor reviewed and approved 417 for use in the 2023 PWS wage data based on the 2023 PWS survey, 36 are assigned the Guam OEWS wage values, and 395 are assigned the Adjusted OEWS wage values according to the letter from the Office of Foreign Labor Certification administrator.

The 2023 PWS CW-1 Wage Table report can be accessed on the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification website at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/

The 2023 PWS Report can be accessed on the CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division website at https://ver1.cnmicommerce.com/divisions/central-statistics/report-hub/.

Questions and inquiries regarding the prevailing wage study survey should be directed to the Central Statistics Division at telephone number 664-3045 or 3023 or email address director.csd@commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

FIRE

From page 1

According to the female caller who reported the accident, the crash had such an impact that it knocked the power pole down. Another car was also involved in the crash and it is believed that it hit the first car and sent it spinning, causing the second vehicle to hit the nearby power pole.

Fortunately, there was no fatalities from the accident.

In a press release from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, five units in all responded to the call at 8:52am. The first unit arrived at the scene at around 8:58am.

Upon arrival, responding officers observed that the car was already fully engulfed in flames, DFEMS said.

Both Medic 2 and Medic 4 units transported both drivers of the vehicles involved in the accident to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Investigators from the Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation arrived on the scene after the fire was extinguished to investigate and assess its cause. The investigation is still ongoing and the cause of the fire will be released at a later date.

Saipan Tribune tried to get a statement from the Department of Public Safety but to no avail.

In an interview with Patrick Matagolai Cepeda, a resident in the area for the last 23 years, he said his wife heard the crash, followed by a loud explosion. After hearing this, the family went out to check and saw that a car had hit a power pole and was on fire.

Cepeda said the area is prone to accidents.

"Since I've been here, I think this pole has been replaced over 10 times because it's always being hit. With the absence of black asphalt before, the roads were much worse. But since they have covered the road in black asphalt, I believe the accidents have decreased," he said.

CPA

From page 1

meeting virtually, described the project as a once-in-a-lifetime deal.

"This project comes one time in our lives: a major infrastructure project in partnership with the United States and our military. A rebuilt Tinian Port is a stronger support facility consistent with the vision of our Covenant," he said.

CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio believes this project would be monumental for the CNMI.

"This agreement is monumental because, with our partnership with DOD, we will have a modern, functioning Tinian Port for our community and for our strategic partnership with the United States for national security," he said.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said the development of the Tinian harbor will lead to further developments and progress for the island of Tinian.

"Our airports and seaports on Tinian, when repaired and maintained, provide the key links for development and progress. The Letter of Intent enables DOD to secure the funding and CPA commits to the project for our mutual benefit in every way possible. This is the beginning of a negotiation process similar to that of the divert lease in 2019. We are excited to pursue opportunities for our CNMI," she said.

The LOI provides DOD with the initial support and commitment it needs in order to secure congressional defense authorization for the project, which is expected to start in fiscal year 2025.

"CPA owns the Tinian Port. The Covenant Technical Agreement only reserves rights to the military for training use of the port. DOD can get the funding to repair and improve the port with military project funding. The Letter of Intent gives DOD the firm commitment to now secure the funds," CPA said.

To clarify, CPA says the approval for an LOI only starts the process for discussions toward an agreement and allows DOD to first secure the funding for the project.

Currently, CPA has merely reviewed the project proposal and has even conducted a town hall discussion on Tinian and met with the CNMI and Tinian leadership.

If it pushes through, DOD's joint area development project for the Tinian harbor will allow CPA and DOD to develop the port together for civilian, commercial, and military purposes.

"DOD will bring the money for the project that CPA could never afford without substantial bonding and burdening fiscal obligations. CPA owns the Tinian Port and DOD will have easement rights to repair, build, and maintain the Tinian Port with its project funding and construction. With this joint area development, CPA and DOD will develop the port together for civilian, commercial and military purposes," said CPA.

Back on July 3, DOD through INDOPACOM, submitted a request for a Letter of Intent to CPA, requesting its support for the project to repair, improve, and develop the Tinian harbor.

The project concept includes two warehouse facilities; hardening and repairs to the four berths; dredging the harbor to 28 feet; removal of Finger Pier A and installing two mooring buoys outside the harbor.

The most substantial aspect of the project concept is the repair of the entire breakwater structure to protect the port area.

NMC is committed to fostering diversity—regents

In light of the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on affirmative action, the Northern Marianas College's board of regents have issued the following statement:

"Northern Marianas College remains firm on its commitment to fostering a diverse educational environment for our students, which is at the heart of our mission to cultivate stewardship through scholarship. As NMC's board of regents, we join the American Association of Community Colleges in recommitting ourselves to deliberatively seek action-oriented solutions that will break down barriers to higher education. As demonstrated by our new strategic master plan to take care of our people, resources, and communities and in our support of important initiatives like Project Proa and Proa Promise, we will continue to provide a learning community at NMC where different backgrounds and viewpoints are embraced, where opinions are welcomed, and where innovation is developed as a result of our diversity. The promise of education transcends race, politics, or a Supreme Court decision, so we will continue to support diversity, equity, and inclusion here in the Marianas, across Micronesia, and around the United States." ***(NMC)***

NMC's UCEDD, CDI cap inclusion training, expand to Tinian, Rota

The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the Community Development Institute, which are both affiliated with Northern Marianas College, announced yesterday the successful completion of the first UCEDD Inclusion Training. This training initiative provided invaluable opportunities for self-advocates to enhance their skills, knowledge, and confidence, promoting inclusivity, independence, and personal growth.

NMC

Participants look on during one of the UCEDD Inclusion Training sessions held on Saipan.

The UCEDD Inclusion Training, which was held from June 2 to June 9 on the college's Saipan campus, brought together a diverse group of enthusiastic participants. Participants received certificates of participation and were recognized for their dedication and commitment to personal development.

The success of the UCEDD Inclusion Training has prompted its expansion to other locations within the Commonwealth. UCEDD and CDI held its training on Tinian on June 16, 2023, at the NMC Tinian campus. Additionally, UCEDD held its Inclusion Training for the first time on Rota on June 23, 2023, at the NMC Rota Campus.

Throughout the training, participants engaged in modules designed to empower and equip them for success. These sessions covered various topics, including introduction to college life, healthy lifestyle, financial literacy, digital literacy, stress management, and self-advocacy and leadership.

"We are immensely proud of the participants who completed the UCEDD Inclusion Training," said UCEDD director Eileen A. Babauta. "Their dedication and enthusiasm in embracing the modules and actively participating in the training exemplify their commitment to personal growth and empowerment. We are honored to have been a part of their transformative journeys."

NMC remains committed to fostering inclusion, independence, and equal opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. By expanding the UCEDD Inclusion Training to Tinian and Rota, the college aims to empower even more self-advocates, ensuring they have the tools and knowledge to thrive in the community and beyond. ***(NMC)***

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	(1) Grants Specialist	PL 15/1 to 15/12 ($14.38/hr to $24.60/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
	(1) Procurement Clerk	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 21, 2023.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

Plan, direct, manages, and coordinates the operations of the company such as but are not limited to formulating policies, overseeing daily operations, planning the use of materials and human resources. Improve operational systems, processes and best practices that guarantee the company well-being. Recruit, interview, and train personnel. Prepare and process employees USCIS work authorization documents. Assess staff performance and provide coaching and guidance to ensure maximum efficiency. Ensure the smooth and adequate flow of information within the company to facilitate other business operations. Make work schedule for laundromat employees. Monitor, encode, handle, and prepare monthly expense report on assigned accounts. Review and revise leasing documents such as rental agreement, related documents & forms. Prepare monthly rental billing, collect rents, and summarize monthly collections and tenants accounts. Review & summarize assigned accounts monthly reports. Ensure operations adhere to company policies & regulations and complies with all Governmental regulations and requirements. Ensure all licenses, permits, and regulating agencies compliance are timely filed, renewed and complied. Attend seminars, meetings, public hearings and other related forums to keep abreast and updated with relevant changes that will impact business operations. Deal, handle and correspond with private and Gov't agencies. Review company agreements and contracts; make analysis and recommendations for revisions & improvements. Provide assistance and reports to executives & managers with operations and administrative duties. Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Mathematics, or Economics with 5-year experience in the position.

Send Resume, transcript, & supporting credentials to
P&A CORPORATION ATTN: DOYI KIM
P.O. Box 506003, Saipan MP96950 saipanwinners5@gmail.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO: CPA-RFP-011-23-REPACKAGED
SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 28, 2023 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS RENTAL, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA), 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING WORKING WORKS BEGINNING JUNE 28, 2023.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE IN WRITING AND ADDRESS TO THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EITHER BY FACSIMILE AT 234-5962 OR EMAIL: atudela@cnmiports.com NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M., JULY 20, 2023.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CPA. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

JOB OPENING

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER
EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Job Duties:
Provides instruction at the Secondary School level in the following classes: Fundamental Math, Algebra I and Geometry; creates lesson plans; evaluates student performance and provides feedback; communicates students' progress to parents; develops and updates curriculum for the classroom; maintains accurate records of students' progress; keeps order in the classroom; posts grades and sends grade reports to parents; performs other teaching-related duties.

Other requirements:
Baccalaureate degree in liberal arts, stem-science, or engineering; ability to communicate and interact with students and parents; ability to encourage and motivate students; basic computer and Microsoft software skills.

Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai

Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950

E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu

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NEW ARRIVAL
G24 & G26 G.I. ROOFING TIN SECURITY DOOR, G.I. PIPES, G.I. SQUARE TUBE, G.I. C CHANNEL & Z CHANNEL, 2x4 RECTANGULAR TUBE, SHORING JACK, OFFICE TABLE AND CHAIR, US MADE WATER HEATER, TEMPERED GLASS ALUMINUM SLIDING WINDOW.

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It's the suitable paint for the island climate.
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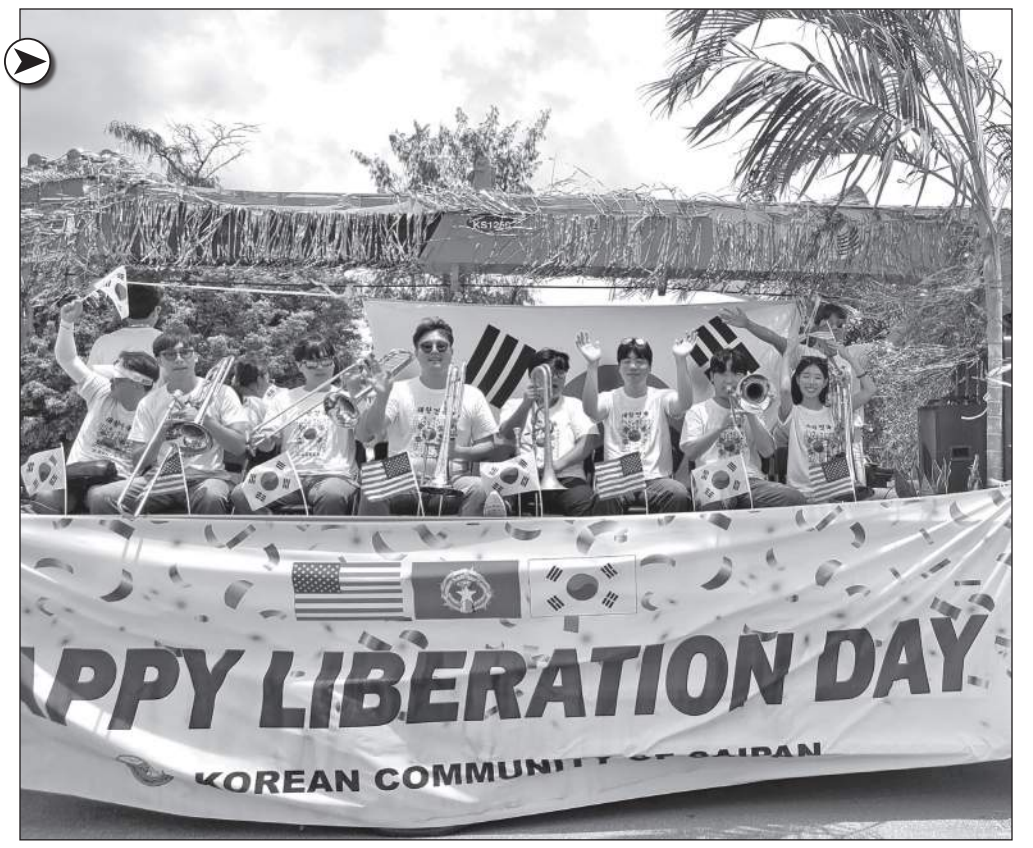
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

KOREAN CONTINGENT FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Korean Community of Saipan float featured musicians playing upbeat music and entertaining the crowd that watched the Liberation Day Parade along both sides of Beach Road last July 4, 2023.



$10K bail for man accused of strangling woman

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $10,000 cash bail on a man accused of strangling a woman and threatening her with a knife.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed last Monday a $10,000 cash bail on Jimmy Serandio, who is accused of strangling his wife and threatening her at knifepoint.

Serandio, who was out on probation after previously pleading guilty to assaulting his wife, is facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, strangulation, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence report.

Camacho remanded Serandio back to Department of Corrections custody and ordered him to appear in court on July 10 for his preliminary hearing. Meanwhile his arraignment was set for July 24.

According to court documents, the victim had called police to meet her at a bus stop in San Antonio last June 30 to report the alleged attack.

The victim claims that the incident had happened on June 28, but she was unable to call police as Serandio had allegedly taken her phone away. The victim also claimed that Serandio would not let her go to work so she couldn't report him for the assault.

The victim told police that at around 9pm on June 28, she and Serandio got into a fight after she and their children returned home from the beach. The victim said Serandio was accusing her of cheating.

The victim said that, during the altercation, Serandio grabbed a nearby knife and threatened to kill her. The victim said Serandio then grabbed her hand and pulled her into their bedroom where he slapped, kicked, and strangled her.

The victim told police that she could not breath and feared for her life. The victim said she managed to kick Serandio off her after he had been choking her for a few minutes.

She claims she tried to call the police immediately after, but Serandio took her phone away.

SHS clinic temporary closed

Saipan Humane Society will be closed temporarily from today, July 7, to July 21, 2023, to accommodate a military clinic from July 11 to July 20, 2023. Military personnel will offer healthcare exam, optometry, dentistry, veterinary care, and behavioral and general health public education.

SHS clinic operations will resume on July 24, 2023, with limited services as our vet and vet tech are off island. The following dates are scheduled exclusively for Bravecto and vaccination appointments:

- July 24, 2023—10am – 2pm
- July 26, 2023—10am – 2pm
- July 28, 2023—10am – 2pm
- July 31, 2023—10am – 2pm

Thank you for your support and patience. We look forward to seeing you soon. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-086

Opening Date: Monday, July 3, 2023
Closing Date: Monday, July 17, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Public Information & Media Specialist
DEPARTMENT:	COA / Administration Office
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$37,756.00 to $50,970.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee. This individual will utilize their skills in writing, editing, social media and corporate communication to enhance, improve, and advance CUC's communication to the public and the media. The ideal candidate will insist on the highest standards, understanding of the Corporation's values, dive deep into details, has a strong bias for action and sense of ownership, extract information to find commonalities between projects, and be able to multitask on various projects. This individual will keep their composure in fast-moving situations, be able to quickly get up to speed on complex issues, that involve the consumers, employees, and from time to time how matters relate from a government perspective. The role would suit a detail-orientated people person with a passion for storytelling and writing through the use of modern media.

Duties:
There are three (3) areas of responsibilities this individual will have to be responsible for and they are as follows:

- **Corporate Communications**
  - Provides high-quality writing, formatting, and proofing support of a variety of content.
  - Prepares annual corporate reports as needed.
  - Prepares press releases, public advisories, and public notices and collaborates closely with the Chief of Administration and the Executive Director prior to sharing the information with parties involved.
  - Coordinates meetings and corporate email communications relating to public information sharing and/or media publications to include social media.
  - Assists with the coordination and communication of internal and external events as needed.
  - Maintains and promotes communications by corporate standards, processes, and policies internally.
  - Monitors and tracks project deliverables and deadlines.
  - Responsible for compiling and formalizing reports for the corporation under the direction of the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- **Employee Relations Communication**
  - Craft and execute strategic internal communication plans for new programs, policies, procedures and changes.
  - Manage and support crisis communications. o Improve processes with new ideas and tools that are shared to all divisions within the Corporation.
- **Social Media Initiatives**
  - Grow and maintain our social presence through active social listening and consistent brand messaging.
  - Manage daily, weekly, and monthly social media plans in support of major organizational objectives.
  - Use data to develop a social media strategy, identify trends, provide insight, and execute recommendations to grow all of our social channels and engagements.
  - Work with HR to optimize social media for recruiting efforts. Plan content and ad campaigns to generate employment opportunity awareness.

Minimum Requirements:
Education & Experience: Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, Digital Media or related field and three (3) years of experience working in a corporate communications position in which must include two (2) years of professional social media experience with a demonstrated track record of success.
Proficiency in the applications of: Social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn; Microsoft software – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; and Adobe Creative Cloud All Apps – Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign.
Proficiency in multiple languages (such as legally recognized languages in the CNMI: English, Chamorro and Carolinian) is a plus.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Public relations principles and techniques; Effective business communication techniques; Media relations principles; Customer relations principles; Modern Office Technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, codes, rules, regulations and standards; Serving as a public information liaison and representative to the community; Demonstrating excellent time-management and organizational skills with strong attention to detail; Applying strong analytical, organizational, and prioritization skills, including general business processes and management; Utilizing professional verbal and written communication skills; Building robust communications programs and delivering results; Developing relevant content for a diverse, remote, and mobile workforce; Creating metrics to measure communication effectiveness, reach, and engagement.

Abilities: Must have **EXCELLENT WRITING** and **EDITING SKILLS** with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with internal and external clients; Must be able to work occasional extra hours; Must be able to work on/direct multiple projects at one time without direct supervision and be able to handle deadlines, confidential information and interruptions in the work process; Must be able to multi-task; Must be able to work well with various levels of employees, cross-functional team members and diverse cultures; Must be able to comfortably deal with ambiguity and be able to form a cohesive and effective outcome from potentially incongruous facts (or lack thereof) and individual perspectives.

- **Licensing:**
  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands and Work Environment:**
  - Generally, an office/desk position using a computer and telephone.
  - Occasionally required to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday to Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2022 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2022 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to https://www.cucgov.org/spn2022
For Tinian, go to https://www.cucgov.org/tin2022
For Rota, go to https://www.cucgov.org/rota2022

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóómw 2022 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráágh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóómw schaal llól ráághil 2022 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/spn2022
Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/tin2022
Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/rota2022

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÅLIDÅT HÅNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2022 na Ripot nu i Kuålidåt Hånom i CUC managuahayi på´gu giya on-line! På´gu na såkkan, in na´guahayi siparåo na ripot para kada´ isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottånti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuålidåt put i Hånom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan håfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda´ gi hålum i hånom-mu gi durántin 2022 na såkkan para un ke´tungu´ más put i hånom ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/spn2022
Para Tinian, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/tin2022
Para Luta, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/rota2022

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matranslåda, ya malagu´ håo kumuentusi håyi put i ripot pat malagu´ håo kopian påppit u ma´entrega pat ma-email guatu para hågu, put fabot hågan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

UOG wins $10M grant to advance agriculture in Micronesia

Developing the next generation of agriculture, food, nutrition, and natural resources professionals in the Marianas and Micronesian islands is the focus of a new $10-million grant awarded to the University of Guam College of Natural & Applied Sciences.

"This is a major grant for UOG and this region," said Rachael Leon Guerrero, vice provost for research. "It's the university's second largest grant ever, following the EPSCoR grant, and it's the largest amount of funding that has ever come to UOG focused solely on undergraduate STEM and agriculture education."

The grant project serves students at UOG, Northern Marianas College, and Guam Community College through a cooperative bachelor's program with several larger U.S. universities. It is one of 33 grants awarded to minority-serving institutions by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's "From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals Program," or NextGen—a $262-million investment in higher education institutions through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Yudin

With the islands of Micronesia being vulnerable to food shortages and environmental catastrophes brought on by climate change and invasive species, the project seeks to bolster the workforce with local professionals who can help combat these challenges.

Cooperative course-sharing

In the cooperative bachelor's degree program, students enrolled in agriculture and natural resource-focused programs at UOG, GCC, and NMC will be able to take in-depth, specialized courses in their subject areas from Utah State University, University of Florida, and University of Hawaii at Manoa. Students can either take the courses online or via a semester abroad.

"Our islands are in need of larger scale agricultural production to facilitate food security, wildlife biologists and land managers to control invasive species, and ecologists to restore our native species, to name a few critical areas," said Dr. Lee S. Yudin, dean of the UOG College of Natural & Applied Sciences and project director on the grant. "This project combines the resources of multiple institutions to expose our students to these career possibilities and ensure they're the best candidates to fill these jobs."

Internships, research experiences, and scholarships

Students will also benefit from high-impact learning experiences—such as internships, research programs, and study-abroad opportunities—with the partner universities and local government agencies. These hands-on experiences combined with the advanced courses will boost local graduates' resumes, making them more competitive, particularly for federal jobs that are available locally.

Additionally, the program will provide scholarships to cover childcare, room and board, and tuition costs, which can prohibit residents from pursuing or finishing bachelor's degrees in food, agriculture, nutrition, or human sciences or advancing in their related jobs.

The NextGen cooperative bachelor's degree project will be supported by the Research Corporation of the University of Guam over its five-year term ending May 31, 2028. A webpage with more details on the upcoming opportunities will be launched this fall. Students and prospective students in Guam and the rest of Micronesia interested in studying food, agriculture, nutrition, natural resources, or child and family sciences can contact Dr. Rachel Jolley, co-project director, at jollyr@triton.uog.edu for more information. ***(UOG)***

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

University of Guam students Tristan Valdes and Nana Kanda carry an uprooted banana sucker while learning about banana propagation in their Intro to Agriculture class trip to UOG's Inarajan Research & Education Center in September 2021.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-100,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-100" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, including all associated work in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of bid documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023,** at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com, at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX (526)** calendar days for all three bridges. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) U.S. Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 16, 2023

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23-087

Opening Date: Monday, July 3, 2023
Closing Date: Monday, July 17, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	**Training & Development Administrator**
DEPARTMENT:	**Executive Director / Administration Office**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$45,326.00 to $61,190.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee. The individual will oversee organizational units and make programmatic decisions on behalf of the unit organization-wide across all locations. Such decisions will provide context for the work to be accomplished by subordinates supervised within the unit and/or designated programs managed. The incumbent is responsible for the management of functions and budget associated with an assigned unit/designated program and may be responsible for the supervision of professional, technical and administrative support staff assigned to the unit. Based upon assignment, the incumbent may administer units/designated programs with administrative functions requiring differing levels of risk to the organization while providing for the across-the-board first level management necessary to execute the process and projects of the organization. As assigned, the incumbent will supervise staff including conducting performance evaluations, coordinating training, and implementing hiring, discipline, and termination procedures.

Duties:

- Manages the functions of the training and development program, which includes planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluating programs, projects, processes, procedures, systems, standards, and/or services. Ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards.
- Serves as a liaison with internal departments, officials, agencies, partners, contractors and other external organizations, groups and representatives. Serves as a representative at a variety of meetings, public events, on committees, and/or other related events regarding services, programs, or projects.
- Analyzes training needs to develop new training programs or modifies and improves existing programs.
- Plans, develops, and provides training and staff development programs, using knowledge of the effectiveness of methods such as classroom training, demonstrations, on-the-job trainings, meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- Prepares training budget for departments or organization.
- Confers with management and conducts surveys to identify training needs based on projected production processes, changes, and other factors.
- Develops and organizes training manuals, multimedia visual aids, and other educational materials.
- Develops testing and evaluation procedures.
- Trains instructors and supervisors in techniques and skills for training and dealing with employees.
- Conducts orientation sessions and arranges on-the-job training for new hires.
- Conducts or arranges for ongoing technical training and personnel development classes for staff members.
- Reviews and evaluates training and apprenticeship programs for compliance with government standards.
- Assists in planning, developing, recommending and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures, and standards. Coordinates operational and program efforts in alignment with goals and objectives of assigned area of responsibility.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in a directly related field and three (3) years of professional experience in assigned field including one (1) year of leadership experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation. As assigned, a Master's Degree in a related field and/or specific certifications/licensure may be required.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Managerial principles, practices and techniques; Principles, practices, methods and techniques of assigned operational area or function; Budgeting principles, Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Modern office equipment; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, rules, regulations and standards; Managing, monitoring, training and evaluating staff; Prioritizing, coordinating, allocating resources and assigning work; Planning, organizing, and implementing programs and services; Establishing goals, objectives, and standards; Recommending, developing and implementing policies and procedures; Providing technical review, expertise and oversight related to assigned area; Monitoring and implementing quality, compliance and/or safety procedures and processes; Preparing contract documents; Providing contract administration; Researching and analyzing information; Resolving problems and conflict; Developing budget and monitoring compliance; Preparing reports, presentations and other related materials; Delivering presentations and training; Overseeing customer service delivery; Serving as a liaison and technical representative of assigned area; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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  - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
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Learning how to preserve, save resources during disasters

JKPL

Welcome dinner at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for some of the workshop participants.

To better protect museums, libraries, and community spaces from the damaging effects of disasters and other emergencies, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library recently partnered with the University of Hawai'i in a two-day free hands-on workshop on "Assisting Museums, Libraries, and Community Spaces in Disaster Preparedness and Response."

JKPL hosted the workshop at the main library from June 21 to June 22, 2023. It was facilitated by paper conservator Liane Naauao, who introduced disaster management strategies and activities such as risk management, emergency planning, and response.

About 20 participants attended the workshop on disaster preparedness. Many shared their background, experience with disasters and growing up with climate change, typhoons, flooding, and fire.

"…Si yu'us and mahalo to Noelle Kahanu, Eric Chang, Karen Kosasa, and paper conservator Liane Naauao for sponsoring this valuable training opportunity for our island community. Thank you to my amazing team at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for preparing, planning, and coordinating these efforts together. You can never be too ready for a disaster," said JKPL director Erlinda Naputi

The workshop was held in the JKPL McRel Room.

Aside from sharing an "Introduction to Emergency Preparedness," Naauao also shared a Pocket Response Plan prepared by the Council of State Archivists. The Pocket Response Plan is a paper-based document that contains a response checklist for emergency in an archives or records facility and would contain all emergency contact information should the need arise.

That day the team conducted an on-site risk assessment activity inside/outside the public library and completed a risk assessment worksheet adapted from the National Park Service Museum Handbook, Risk Assessment Worksheet 10.2 (2000).

On Day 2, participants learned the following: emergency planning; disaster supplies and safety measures with an on-site walk-through of the disaster kit; hands-on salvage activity; and shared best practices and lessons learned.

Naauao shared her personal salvaging experience from a devastating flash flood, which overflowed the banks of Mānoa Stream on Oct. 30, 2004. Flooding caused an estimated $80-million damage to 32 buildings on University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus. The flood rushed through the UH Manoa campus, directly hitting the Hamilton Library. According to University of Hawai'i News, "Hundreds of thousands of historical maps, aerial photographs and government documents along with numerous computers and servers were damaged or destroyed after water, up to eight feet deep, flooded the library's ground floor. The floodwaters broke through walls, toppled bookshelves and overturned furniture."

Workshop participants learned valuable salvaging techniques to preserve and protect precious historical and cultural information from being destroyed, including how to salvage maps, video cassette tapes, compact disks, floppy disks, magazines, photographs, paperback books, hardcover books, casings, and film.

The team learned how to salvage water-damaged family valuables and heirlooms from FEMA fact sheet. They accessed an ideal "Disaster Preparedness Kit," which contained emergency supplies dedicated to responding to an emergency or disaster that affects collections. The portable kit could be stored in a mobile container for easier transport to a disaster site.

Another group exercise included Canopy Making 101. Participants worked together in groups of four to build canopies to respond to roof leakage. They learned how to make clove hitch knots and tautline hitch knots. Then hoisted up plastic sheeting supported by cotton strings secured to coins and tied onto the McRel Room ceiling. ***(PR)***

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THE POSITION: Insurance Underwriter
NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 2

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Friday, June 9, 2023

Through its Board of Directors, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), grants a three-month (90-day) automatic loan payment deferral for all **ROTA CEDA LOAN CLIENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS** from June 2023 to August 31, 2023.

Three-month (90-day) Loan Deferral Details:
- The deferred loan payments are added to the end of the loan.
- Customers need to remember that, eventually, they must make those payments.
- Restart your loan payments, on or by the due date, in the month of September 2023.
- Interest will accrue during the three-month loan payment deferral period (Loan interest rates range from a low of 2% to a max of 9%–with rates averaging 7%).
- The loan deferral period will not cure any delinquent past-due amounts.
- No action is required by borrowers to defer their loan payments, except, for those borrowers with scheduled automatic monthly loan payments (via debit/credit card), please contact us to temporarily cease those payments for all or part of the deferral.

Here's our contact info:

CEDA Loan Team

Abby Atalig	a.atalig@developcnmi.com	(670) 234-6245 ext. 309
Fred Cruz	f.cruz@developcnmi.com	ext. 305
Marie Coleman	m.coleman@developcnmi.com	ext. 307

Rota office

Elaine M. Manglona	e.manglona@developcnmi.com	(670) 532-9408

Or please visit us at the CEDA Building, room 103 (ground floor), located on San Jose Beach Road (across from The Shack & Oleai Beach Bar & Grill).

Please contact us at the above if we may be of further assistance.

/s/ **Manuel A. Sablan**
CEDA Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court ruling on student loan debt relief means Congress must now act

It's not surprising but still deeply disappointing that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled against the Biden administration's plan to provide more than $400 billion in student loan forgiveness. Compounding the injustice is the fact that a divided Congress is unlikely to fill the vacuum left by the decision with remedial legislation. But advocates for debt relief should continue to press their case, not just at the Capitol but in next year's elections.

Crushing student debt is a burden not just on former students but on the national economy. The pain was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why the Biden administration acted, claiming authority under the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students (HEROES) Act of 2003. That law empowers the secretary of Education to waive or modify loan provisions in response to a national emergency.

The Biden plan was not an indiscriminate bonanza but rather was targeted to help those most in need of relief. For borrowers with an annual income of less than $125,000, the Education Department would forgive up to $10,000 in student loans. Recipients of Pell Grants, a form of financial aid for lower-income students, could qualify for up to $20,000 in loan cancellation. The scope of the problem was evident in the fact that 26 million borrowers applied for relief.

But in a 6-3 decision Friday, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court held that the administration exceeded its authority. In response to a lawsuit brought by Nebraska and five other Republican-led states, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote that the HEROES Act allows the secretary to "waive or modify" provisions, "not to rewrite that statute from the ground up."

The solicitor general made a persuasive case that the administration was acting within its authority. As Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a dissent joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson: "The statute provides the Secretary with broad authority to give emergency relief to student-loan borrowers, including by altering usual discharge rules. What the secretary did fits comfortably within that delegation."

She emphasized that the delegation of authority is not some tucked-away provision but "is at the statute's very center, in its 'waive or modify' language."

Inaction and obstruction on Capitol Hill have often forced presidents to respond to pressing national problems with executive action. In this case, that action was grounded in a longstanding law. Now it is the duty of Congress to ensure that this relief program is carried out.

Reacting to Friday's decision, President Joe Biden said he will pursue some relief for student loan borrowers based on another law, the 1965 Higher Education Act. This backup plan may take longer to establish than the plan blocked by the court—which is all the more reason candidates for Congress next year should be pressed to restore the lifeline Biden tried to extend.

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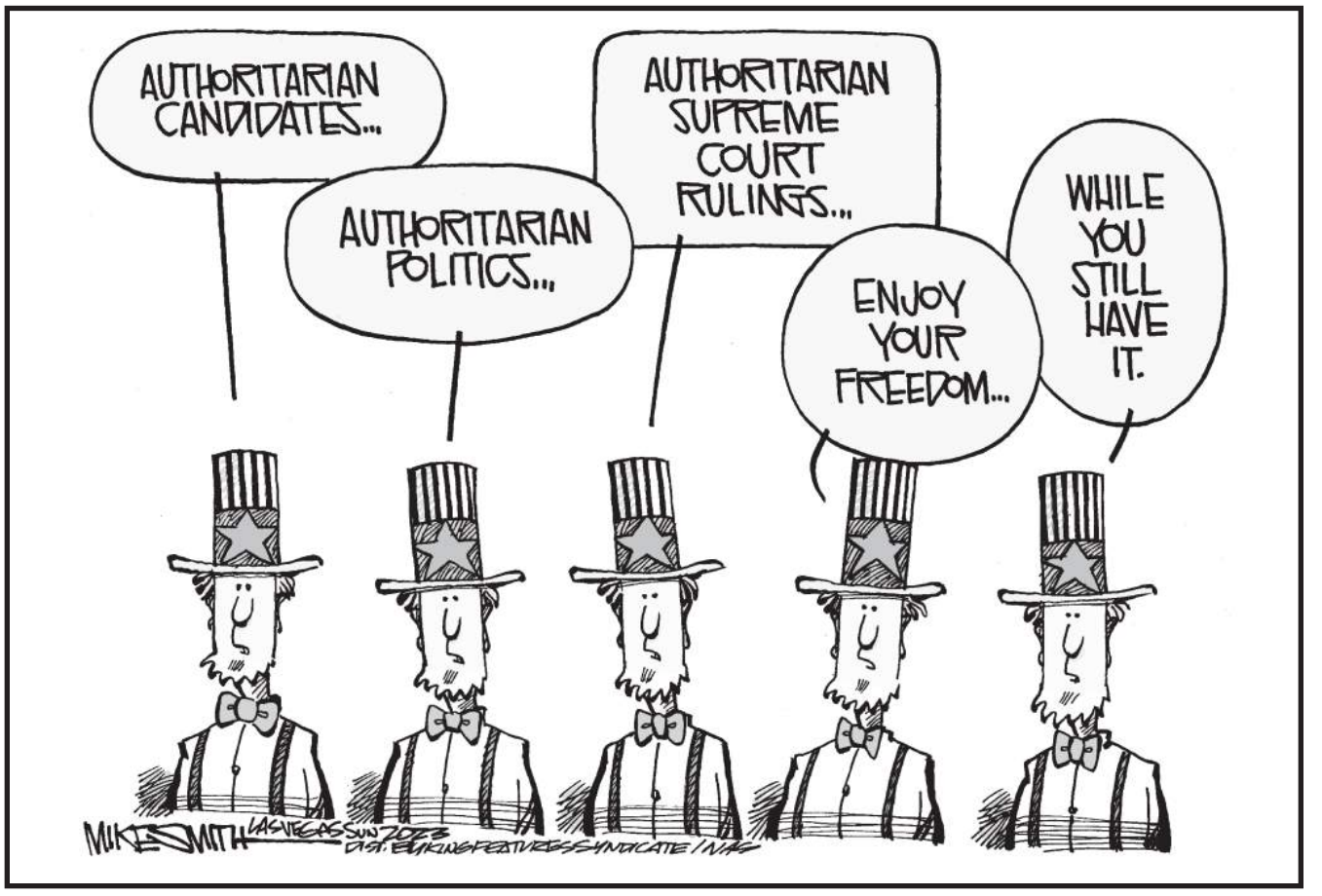
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Ignoring the humanity of migrants won't fix migration problems

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

For five days, "Breaking News" alerts hit my phone repeatedly with updates on the search for a missing submersible. The search for the five-passenger vessel began only days after an overloaded migrant vessel capsized carrying some 750 desperate people bound for Greece.

The migrants aboard came from Pakistan, Egypt, Syria and Palestine, all funneled through Libya in a desperate attempt to reach Europe. Only 104 survivors have been found, making it one of the deadliest sinkings ever in the Mediterranean Sea. But this tragedy was one of many.

Perhaps it is because these events are so common that my phone didn't light up with a play-by-play of efforts to save them. Thousands of migrants die in the Mediterranean Sea each year. While migrants die all around the world, including 1,400 last year in the Americas, the Mediterranean route is by far the deadliest.

It's hard not to see the gross disparity in the response to five privileged men missing at sea, compared with the treatment of thousands of the least privileged on earth.

U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard vessels and military aircraft were deployed for days at great expense searching for signs of the tourist submersible. In contrast, the migrant boat's distress calls were answered by a Greek Coast Guard vessel that offered little assistance and might even have caused the disaster in an effort to tow the boat out of Greek waters.

The Greek government denies this allegation, but dozens of cases have been brought against Greece in recent years for the deadly and illegal practice of pushing migrants back to sea to avoid taking legal responsibility for refugees.

The European Union might scold the Greek government for its failure to act in accord with international and European law, but it has hardly demonstrated more humanity. Instead of funding rescues, it funds migrants' capture and imprisonment.

The EU committed about $38 billion to prevent migrants from arriving on its shores for the period of 2021 to 2027. This includes funding Libya's coastal security administration, with about $93 million over the last two years to train and assist Libya's ragtag Coast Guard. The EU's border agency, Frontex, provides aerial surveillance to assist Libyan authorities with interceptions.

The EU also supports detention centers in Libya, where these migrants are taken. With no functional central government in Libya, these profitable facilities are run by militias with minimal oversight.

The migrants are tortured, starved and exploited as those running the facilities force them to raise money to pay ransom. Sally Hayden's remarkable book, My Fourth Time, We Drowned, details not only these conditions but how EU policies and support knowingly facilitate this ongoing crime against humanity for thousands. Earlier this year, a United Nations-backed investigation accused the EU of abetting these human rights abuses (though UN agencies are complicit too).

Most detainees never even register with the UN High Commission on Refugees, which is their only path to securing transfer to another country.

No due process, no information, only a handful of toilets for hundreds of people, minimal (if any) medical care, barely enough food to survive, and no hope for a way out.

It is hard to miss the irony that the inhumane treatment of these migrants is funded and legitimized by the same European countries they have risked everything to reach, precisely because they seek the freedoms, values and dignity that Europe purports to represent.

Europe's aggressive approach to border management was driven by a migrant crisis that peaked in 2015. These policies and practices appear to have succeeded at their primary goal of reducing the number of migrants reaching European shores, but at what cost?

The effort has repeatedly violated European commitments to human rights under both international and EU law. While European countries (just like the United States) are not obligated to admit migrants who don't have valid claims to asylum, many have strong legal claims based on their country of origin alone. Even those without these claims deserve basic humane treatment.

Europe has empowered corrupt and criminal elements in Libya and elsewhere, feeding into a modern-day slave trade where migrants are bought and sold. It has not brought Libya closer to being a functional and secure state, nor has it addressed the underlying causes driving so many people to risk death or worse along this route. This means the problem for Europe might be suppressed, but it isn't being resolved.

A policy of keeping migrants away from European shores at any cost has also cost Europe its credibility as a purveyor of peace, freedom and human rights. That might not matter much to many of the continent's security- and economy-minded leaders, but it should to anyone who doesn't want their tax dollars to fund this abuse.

The reality is that migration will only increase as the march of cli-

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A declaration of non-independence—for women

By CARLA HALL
Los Angeles Times

If men could get pregnant, the saying goes, the Declaration of Independence might well have declared that all men are endowed with the right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and a safe abortion. A colleague once suggested to me that such phrasing wouldn't have been necessary. It would simply have been taken for granted that men had an inalienable right to terminate a pregnancy.

The eloquent manifesto lays out in detail how the king of Britain had tyrannized the colonists and why they now had a right to create a new government to "effect their Safety and Happiness." (Lot of "happiness" in the Declaration of Independence.) Given the declaration's precision of language, I'd expect abortion would have been singled out in the list of rights—just in case anyone reading it thought "liberty" didn't cover it.

Same with the U.S. Constitution—if men could get pregnant, the white male framers of the Constitution would have written in the right to an abortion. Then we wouldn't have had Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. last year complaining he couldn't find abortion in the Constitution and having to rely on 17th century common laws criminalizing abortion for guidance when he was overturning Roe vs. Wade.

This is the problem.

In America, liberty has never been part of a woman's brief, and our personal autonomy has neither been spelled out nor assumed. It took suffragettes more than 70 years to win a federal right for women to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. Congress still won't pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

For 49 years, the constitutional right to abortion was spelled out in the Roe vs. Wade decision. Then last year in Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the Supreme Court's conservative majority, in a rare case of overturning a precedent to take away rights, abolished protection for abortion rights.

Now, instead, what is being spelled out in the law is what women can't do with their bodies. In some states, they can't terminate a pregnancy after 12 weeks of gestation, or six weeks—or ever, unless maybe they get so ill during a pregnancy that they will die without an abortion. Millions of child-bearing women live in states with no abortion rights or extremely restricted rights, putting them at risk of having to give birth against their will.

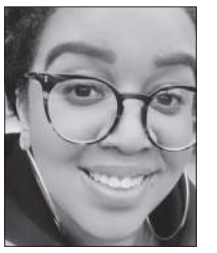
What kind of a country that believes in the pursuit of liberty and happiness does that? According to Human Rights Watch, that would be the U.S., which is breaking several international human rights treaties it signed. "These human rights obligations include, but are not limited to, the rights to: life; health; privacy; liberty; and security of person," says a report by the group.

Meanwhile, not only has the Senate failed to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, codifying the right to abortion into federal law, but it couldn't even manage to pass legislation ensuring a right to contraception. Republicans blocked the bill. Contraception does remain legal by virtue of two landmark Supreme Court rulings—Griswold vs. Connecticut in 1965 and Eisenstadt vs. Baird in 1972— but the fear is that those cases, too, might be overturned, leaving sexually active women with no legal option to avoid pregnancy.

After the 1994 uprising in Chiapas, the Zapatistas enshrined women's rights into the Women's Revolutionary Law, which rules the way they live today. It reads in part: "Women have the right to decide how many children they will have and take care of."

It shouldn't take another American revolution for women in this country to simply have full autonomy over their bodies. We don't need a new government. We just need the people who run this one to realize that without personal autonomy there is no liberty.

Childhood summer sports created a community—and now, nostalgia



By SHAKEIA TAYLOR
Chicago Tribune

If there's anything I love, it's nostalgia. Records, physical copies of old books, film cameras, '90s cartoons and recapturing an old feeling.

It's hard not to feel nostalgic in summer. We're stuck at work but our inner children are out in the streets on summer break. It's hot and sticky. The days are longer and the bugs are out. It's the season when fun memories and new friends are made. The time for family reunions, festivals and cookouts.

Recently I was talking to my friend JD about what summer used to look like when we were kids and a bunch of memories of playing sports came flooding back.

I remember playing kickball in the yard with my cousins on family trips to North Carolina. We'd use whatever was available as bases—my grandmother's rose bush, a lid to the garbage can, the sandal of a cousin who decided they wanted to play barefoot. We'd play while the adults gossiped and my grandma would peek out at us from the kitchen window. Sometimes she'd bring us slices of watermelon.

Back in my hometown in northeast Ohio, we played baseball in the streets with the grandkids of the older couple next door. Our particular street wasn't busy but occasionally we'd pause our game so a neighbor could drive through. Our reward at the end of games would be ice cream from our favorite local stand.

Sometimes I'd ride my bike to the neighborhood basketball courts with my little sister in tow. We'd meet up with other kids and watch the hoopers trash talking as they ran up and down the concrete court. The park would be filled with kids in various stages of play—foot racing, swinging, making up new dances to the songs from cars that passed by.

We didn't need much in the way of equipment; we had each other, a ball and our competitive spirits. There was no trophy, just bragging rights.

The pride felt in those moments—the bragging rights—was not only in winning but being in community with those who lived and played around me.

As an adult, I've talked about wanting to assemble my friends at a park somewhere and play some games. Can you imagine what a game of flashlight tag would look like now? Would we just use the lights on our phones?

Today, families, communities and sports all look different. Nostalgia, despite feeling good, has a way of clouding us to the absence of the things we had before. The "good ol' days" have been transformed into something more abstract and mythical rather than something we can make our current reality. And because our childhood memories occupy such a revered place in our thoughts, it's harder to connect the dots between then and now, between the communities of one's childhood and the transformation or absence of them in adulthood.

Would it be possible for children today to have those same experiences? And what does that say about how our memories have led us to shape our communities as adults?

Imagine a young Luis Robert Jr. on a dirt field with his friends, playing until it got too dark to see. Or Connor Bedard on a pond in western Canada, the sound of a puck hitting the metal post. Or Justin Fields throwing passes to his dad, Ivant, his NFL dreams far in the future. Sepia-toned images conjure a past that was fun and easy.

Nostalgia can be so powerful because projecting our current circumstances onto those of our childhood can feel so burdensome—we've grown up, after all—but one constant from then till now is how sports shape our communities.

Kids are still being kids. They're in our neighborhoods, in our backyards and on our blacktops. And this Fourth of July weekend, adults should grab some friends and recapture that feeling.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Collaboration and unity are alive and well in the Marianas

As public offices, we rely heavily on our stakeholders to make the events we sponsor meaningful to the public. It is only through the numerous good deeds of our people and selfless contributions made by members of our business community that we are able to participate in events like the recent Liberation Day parade. This year's parade was a huge blast for the members of our team and we congratulate the Kagman Agriculture Producers Association and the Department of Corrections as they came out victorious in their respective competitions.

Although our float didn't come out on top in the competition, our team came in with a jubilant attitude and left accomplishing the main goal behind the endeavor and that was to demonstrate that collaboration and unity are alive and well in the Marianas. Our float showcased both Chamorro and Refaluwasch cultures through both artistic display and cultural dance. Our kids, upon reaching the grandstand, were obviously exhausted but found the unyielding strength to entertain the countless dignitaries present with the most invigorating performance we've ever witnessed from youngsters enduring extensive hours of intolerable heat and humidity. This, mind you, was all being accomplished by our local youth without once hearing a single complaint or even a blank stare of frustration. So our utmost praise and gratitude go out to you outstanding Chamorro, Refaluwasch, and Domatsuri performers that participated in the "Inafamauleg – Tipiyeew" float sponsored by the Governor's Office.

We collaborators would like to extend our thanks to our staff from the Carolinian Affairs Office, Women's Affairs Office, Youth Affairs Office, and Indigenous Affairs Office for working after hours, during austerity, and during the holiday to make our float something worth showcasing to the general public. We would also like to thank the following kind individuals and/or entities for their assistance and support in making this event a memorable one for all of us in one way or another:

- Lau Lau Bay Golf Resort
- Hawaiian Rock Products
- Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- 500 Sails
- Christian "Bucky" Manzanares
- Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc.
- Sen. Corina Magofna
- Councilwoman Carmen Pangelinan
- Mr. Joe Lutulimar and Mrs. Melissa Litulumar
- Ruben family (Chalan Lau Lau)
- Rep. Angelo Camacho
- Rep. Malcom Omar
- Rep. Vincent "Kobre" Aldan
- Rep. Julie A. Ogo

It was a highly delightful experience for our team and we eagerly look forward to participating again in subsequent years. Thank you again CNMI and we wish to bid all of you in our community a very Happy Liberation Day again!

Ross Manglona, *Indigenous Affairs Office*
Felix Nogis, *Carolinian Affairs Office*
Barbara T. Sablan, *Women's Affairs Office*
Delbert Pua, *Office of Youth Affairs*

IGNORING

From page 10

mate change makes conflicts more likely and more parts of the world unlivable. Europe's avoidance strategy will only suffice for so long. If not for the sake of humanity, then for the sake of both security and reputation, Europe must find another way to address migration.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

WELLNESS MISSION 2023

SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, under the Office of the Governor, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and various CNMI Community Partners are pleased to share information on the CNMI Operation Wellness Mission this July 2023.

NO COST TO THE COMMUNITY AND NO INSURANCE REQUIRED

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS

MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL OFFER:

- Healthcare Exam Services
- Optometry Services
- Dentistry Services
- Veterinary Care
- Behavioral & General Health Education

Behavioral & General Health Education

Saipan: July 12-19th, 8AM-5PM; July 20th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior- Senior High School

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 32-48 Rota- 16-24
Tinian- 16-24

SERVICES OFFERED:
Mental Health Education & Counseling in:
Tobacco Cessation, Coping Skills, Sleeping Problems, Relationship Problems
Substance Abuse Assessments

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
Psychotherapy, Medication Management

Veterinary Care

Saipan: July 12-19th, 8AM-5PM; July 20th, 8AM-12PM
- Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Shelter
- Saipan Cares for Animals

Tinian: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Tinian Dog Control Office

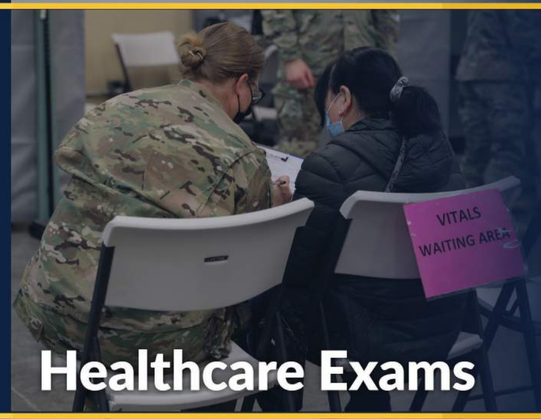
Rota: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior- Senior High School

1 Animal Per Household

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 14-22
Tinian- 6-15
Rota- 6-15

SERVICES OFFERED:
Spay/ Neutering
Examinations
Fecals

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
Euthanasia



Healthcare Exams

Saipan: July 12-19th, 8AM-5PM; July 20th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Rota Health Center

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 150 Rota- 50
Tinian- 50

SERVICES OFFERED:
School-Aged Physicals
Wellness Exams
Consultation on diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, hypertension, and gout.

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
No Labs / Bloodwork
Prescription Refills

Dental Services

Saipan: July 12th,12PM-5PM; July 13-19th, 8AM-5PM; July 20th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12th, 12PM-5PM; July 13-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12th, 12PM-5PM; July 13-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Rota Health Center

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 25- 50
Tinian- 10-20
Rota- 10-20

SERVICES OFFERED:
Exams
Cleanings
Fillings
Extractions
X-rays

Optometry Services

Saipan: July 12-19th, 8AM-5PM; July 20th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-18th, 8AM-5PM; July 19th, 8AM-12PM
- Rota Health Center

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 100-150
Rota –80-100
Tinian – 80-100

SERVICES OFFERED:
Vision Screening
Eye Exam
Prescription Glasses Fabrication

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
Treatment for Glaucoma, Macular Degeneration, Cataracts, Eye Injury and/or Surgery.

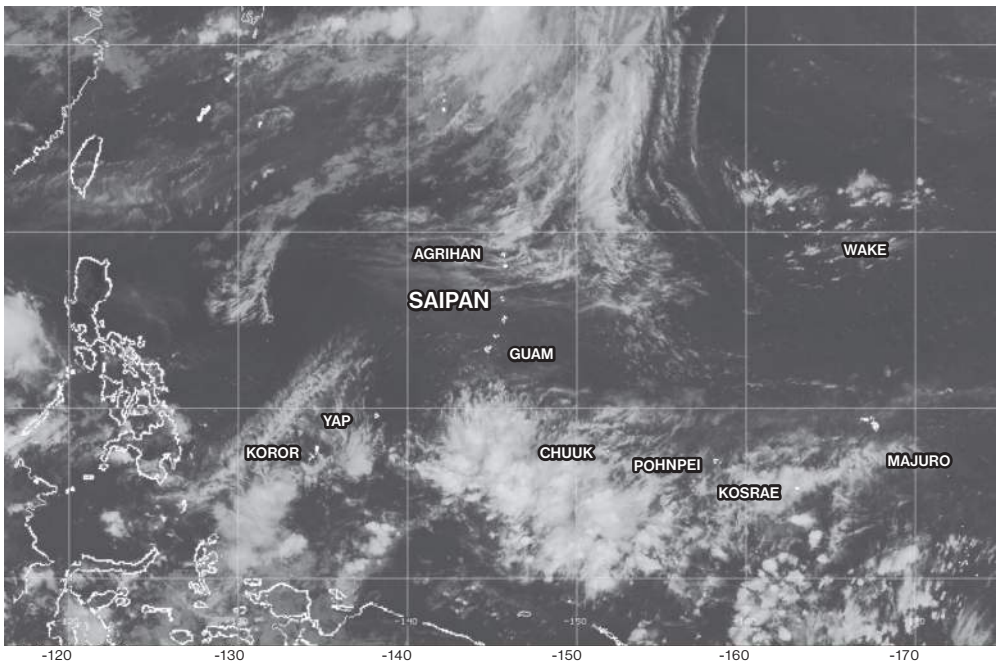
For more information, contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Office at (670) 483-1812, (670) 785-0341, or (670) 483-1814

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 79°	86° 79°	87° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:11 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers south of Guam Waters with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell and east-southeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	83° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:30 AM	10:26 PM
Saturday	-	10:29 AM	11:08 PM
Sunday	-	11:25 AM	11:47 PM
Monday	-	12:19 PM	11:47 PM
Tuesday	12:26 AM	1:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain/Wind	59° / 53°
Beijing	Showers	99° / 74°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Sunny	83° / 65°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 58°
Manila	Thunderstorms	94° / 80°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	58° / 51°
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 77°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	90° / 67°
Busan	Rain	75° / 72°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Isolated Thunderstorms	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 55°
Seoul	Cloudy	88° / 71°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 76°
Washington, DC	Isolated Thunderstorms	89° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:53 AM	Low Tide	1.42
9:32 AM	High Tide	2.11
4:58 PM	Low Tide	-0.17
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174 via Guam	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1 July 19	Daily up to
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1 Aug 20	6, 4 July 23 to
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

USS *John Finn* officers welcomed at Chamber meeting

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The officers of the U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer USS *John Finn* were special guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its July membership meeting last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Hyatt general manager Simon Graf was also kind enough to take care of their lunch, specially prepared by Hyatt executive chef Matteo Fracalossi and his staff. He said it's the Garapan hotel's honor to pick up the tab for the U.S. servicemen.

"In the hotel industry this is something we do very commonly as we open our hearts and we open our doors. We welcome strangers and make them comfortable. So on behalf of everyone on the island and the hotel, thanks for visiting our beautiful island."

Graf also asked the officers of the 315-crew Arleigh Burke-class destroyer homeported out of Yokosuka, Japan to share their pleasant experience on Saipan to their colleagues and friends.

"Please spread the word and share with family and friends and bring some business to the island and look forward to welcoming you and members of your families on many occasions to come," he said.

The Chamber, led by vice president Joshua Wise, also presented a plaque of appreciation to the officers of the USS *John Finn*, led by commanding officer Cdr. Matthew Hays.

Chamber executive director Kim Camacho said the presentation of the plaque of appreciation is part of the business association's tradition whenever a foreign ship docks at the Port of Saipan.

"The Chamber Armed Forces Committee heads that and has for many years now. We actually have a plaque collection at our office of all the ships visited who we've done exchanges with. It's just a symbol of our appreciation of their visit to our island."

Hays, meanwhile, thanked the Chamber and Graf for the warm hospitality they extended to the officers and crew of the USS *John Finn* during their stay on the island, which coincided with the CNMI's celebration of Liberation Day. As a reciprocal gesture, Hays, on behalf of his officers and crew, also gifted the Chamber with a plaque of appreciation.

"Thank you and it's been a wonderful visit and we had an extraordinary time here. Just going around the island and seeing the historical sites and of course enjoying the beautiful weather. Thank you for the hospitality and we're happy to come here and make this visit."

"They looked forward to diving, especially going to the Grotto and just relaxing and enjoying the great weather. We'll definitely share our great experience visiting Saipan during the 4th of July week," he said.

Aside from Hayes, offices of the USS *John Finn* that attended the Chamber meeting include executive officer Andrew Tom, command master chief James Butler, air chief Lt. Cdr. Eric McGee, Lt. Cdr. Simon Hepp, chief engineer Lt. Anthony Grayson, weapons officer Ivan Georgiev, and mass communications 2nd class Samantha Oblander.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce board member Janice Tenorio, seventh from right, and USS *John Finn* commanding officer Cdr. Matthew Hays, night from right, show off the plaques of appreciation they exchanged during the Chamber July monthly meeting Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

He said Saipan has a lot of nature and historical experiences to offer to military servicemen on shore leave.

The officers and crew of the USS *John Finn* left the Port of Saipan yesterday.

The ship is named after John William Finn, the first Medal of Honor recipient of World War II.

He was so honored for machine-gunning Japanese warplanes for over two hours during the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor despite being shot in the foot and shoulder, and suffering numerous shrapnel wounds. He retired as a lieutenant after thirty years of service and died at age 100 in 2010.

Meta takes aim at Twitter with launch of rival app Threads

By KELVIN CHAN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Meta unveiled an app to rival Twitter on Wednesday, appearing to target users looking for an alternative to the social media platform owned—and frequently changed—by Elon Musk.

Called Threads, the new offering is billed as a text-based version of Meta's photo-sharing app Instagram that the company says provides "a new, separate space for real-time updates and public conversations."

The app went live just after midnight Wednesday in the U.K. in Apple and Google Android app stores in more than 100 countries including the U.S., Britain, Australia, Canada and Japan. Early celebrity users include chef Gordon Ramsay, the pop star Shakira and Mark Hoyle, better known as the YouTuber LadBaby.

Users get a Twitter-like microblogging experience, according to screenshots provided to media, suggesting that Meta Platforms has been gearing up to directly challenge the platform after Musk's tumultuous ownership has resulted in a series of unpopular changes that have turned off users and advertisers.

There are buttons to like, repost, reply to or quote a "thread," and counters showing the number of likes and replies that a post has received.

"Our vision is that Threads will be a new app more focused on text and dialogue, modeled after what Instagram has done for photo and video," the company said.

Posts are limited to 500 characters, which is more than Twitter's 280-character threshold, and can include links, photos and videos up to five minutes long.

Instagram users will be able to log in with their existing usernames and follow the same accounts on the new app. New users will have to set up an Instagram account.

Meta emphasized measures to keep users safe, including enforcing Instagram's community guidelines and providing tools to control who can mention or reply to users.

Meta's new offering, however, has raised data privacy concerns.

Threads could collect a wide range of personal information, including health, financial, contacts, browsing and search history, location data, purchases and "sensitive info," according to its data privacy disclosure on the App Store.

Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey pointed it out in a snarky tweet saying, "All your Threads are belong to us" that included a screenshot of the disclosure. Musk replied "yeah."

One place Threads won't be rolled out is in the European Union, which has strict data privacy rules.

Meta has informed Ireland's Data Privacy Commission that it has no plans yet to launch Threads in the 27-nation bloc, commission spokesman Graham Doyle said. The Irish watchdog is Meta's main privacy regulator for the EU because the company's regional headquarters is based in Dublin.

JetBlue junks partnership with American Airlines to salvage purchase of Spirit

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

JetBlue says it will end a partnership with American Airlines in the Northeast after losing a court fight over the deal, and will instead focus on salvaging its proposed purchase of Spirit Airlines.

JetBlue Airways said Wednesday that it will not appeal a federal judge's ruling blocking the deal with American.

With its decision, JetBlue said the U.S. Justice Department should reconsider its opposition to a JetBlue-Spirit combination.

The Justice Department sued to block both the JetBlue-American deal and JetBlue's agreement to buy Spirit for $3.8 billion on grounds that they would hurt competition.

The Justice Department won a trial in Boston last fall over the JetBlue-American partnership. U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin decided in May that the airlines must end their Northeast Alliance, or NEA, which began in 2021, because it violates U.S. antitrust law.

"Despite our deep conviction in the procompetitive benefits of the NEA, after much consideration, JetBlue has made the difficult decision not to appeal the court's determination ... and has instead initiated the termination of the NEA, beginning a wind down process that will take place over the coming months," New York-based JetBlue said in a statement. "We will now turn even more focus to our proposed combination with Spirit."

Shortly after JetBlue's announcement, American said it respects JetBlue's decision "to focus on its other antitrust and regulatory challenges," but it will press ahead with its own appeal in the case.

JetBlue's decision to choose a purchase of Spirit over a geographically limited deal with American grew more likely in recent weeks, as JetBlue declined to say whether it would appeal the Northeast Alliance ruling.

While the deal with American helped JetBlue grow in one region of the country, buying Spirit would let JetBlue grow quickly to nearly 10% of the nationwide airtravel market. That would make JetBlue much closer in size to United, Delta, Southwest—and American.

Last month, JetBlue and American asked Judge Sorokin to let them keep selling tickets on each other's flights, an arrangement called codesharing, and offering reciprocal frequent-flyer benefits. The judge has not ruled on the request, but those features of the NEA will now go away.

Meanwhile, a trial has been scheduled for October in the Justice Department's lawsuit against the JetBlue-Spirit merger. The government argues that consumers will suffer if Spirit—the nation's biggest discount airline—is eliminated.

Savanthi Syth, an airline analyst for Raymond James & Associates, said JetBlue's withdrawal from the deal with American marginally improves its chances to buy Spirit. She said JetBlue could point to the decision—and a conditional agreement to sell Spirit's operation at LaGuardia Airport in New York—as signs that it is trying to ease concerns about reduced competition.

Nation

Wave of mass shootings over 4th of July highlights challenges police face

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thirty shot, two fatally, at a block party in Baltimore. At least three killed and 10 wounded at an annual July Fourth bash in Louisiana. A 7-year-old shot dead in Tampa after two groups gathered along a causeway for Independence Day started to fight. Nine others injured when bullets are sprayed from a car in the nation's capital.

A rash of shootings as the U.S. celebrated the Fourth of July is spiking fears in communities across the country and highlighting the challenges police face in preventing such violence as temperatures warm and festivities move outside. Policing such events is a delicate balance for law enforcement, who must weigh the right of revelers to gather with the threat of violence that looms in public and private spaces in a nation awash with guns.

AP

Additional bullet casings left are mared behind the morning press conference on Wednesday morning, July 5, 2023, after a shooting in Shreveport, La.

"In many ways, their hands are tied because these types of events are often on private property and people may not do anything to violate the law until someone brandishes a firearm and starts shooting," said Tom Nolan, who was a Boston police officer for nearly three decades. "So can the police do anything to prevent that? I just think it's an extraordinary challenge for them to be all places at all times and anticipate things that none of us are expecting."

Violence often surges in the summer months, when teens are out of school and there are more social events that can quickly turn deadly when tempers flare. Curfews for young people and increased police presence on the streets are among the strategies cities have historically used to try to combat summer violence.

Police can prepare for parades and other large annual events by monitoring social media chatter ahead of time, requiring a law enforcement presence for permitted events and changing up their coverage plans depending on how many people are expected when. Ideally, police work with communities who want the protection.

But it's impossible for law enforcement to monitor every block party or holiday gathering. Vacations can also lead to police departments being thinly staffed over holiday weekends and summer months, which means calls for loud music and other disturbances can get backed up while police deal with more pressing matters, Nolan said.

"During the time when their services are most in demand, they are stretched far more thinly than they would like to publicly admit," said Nolan, who was a shift commander in the patrol division.

The gun violence that flared this week in Washington, D.C, Louisiana, Florida, Philadelphia, Texas, Baltimore and Boston left more than a dozen dead and more than 60 wounded—including children as young as 2 years old.

The wave of killings came as the Chicago suburb of Highland Park was marking the anniversary of last year's mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade that left seven people dead. Security was tight at events aimed at honoring those killed, and the day was capped by a drone show instead of fireworks to avoid the noise that could sound like gunfire.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre condemned the gun violence Wednesday, urging Congress to pass a ban on so-called assault weapons and placing blame on the proliferation of guns in the U.S.

"Lives are at stake here, folks. Lives are at stake in communities, the lives of our kids," she said.

In Baltimore, police knew about the block party at the Brooklyn Homes last year and sent squads to the area to monitor for any potential violence, police said. There wasn't any.

This year, police officials didn't discover Sunday's event was happening until the day of. It wasn't advertised on social media and no one in the community told officers, so law enforcement officials weren't properly prepared when violence broke out, interim Baltimore Police Commissioner Richard Worley told reporters. He said police are looking at whether they could have done anything better to make sure something like that doesn't happen again.

"These are events that are about celebration, about coming together, that are intergenerational and should be sacred to our communities. When a few decide to go and literally create a mass shooting, it's completely unacceptable," said Baltimore City Council President Nick Mosby, urging members of the public to work with police to find those responsible.

The 28 injured in Baltimore ranged in age from 13 to 32, with more than half of them younger than 18, officials said. Folding tables and plastic cups were scattered on the street, apparently left behind when people ran from the gunshots.

'Trump, DeSantis clueless on broader importance of military aid to Ukraine'

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP)—Former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis do not grasp the broader implications of their call for limited military assistance to Ukraine, former Vice President Mike Pence told The Associated Press in Iowa Wednesday.

"With all due respect, I think the former president and the governor of Florida just don't understand Americans' national interest in supporting the Ukrainian military in repelling the Russian military in Ukraine," Pence, who is competing with Trump and DeSantis for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, said during the interview before a campaign event in Sioux City.

Pence, who visited Ukraine last week, said, "Make no mistake, China is watching."

Pence, who has called for robust aid to the Ukrainian military, said the United States' commitment to keeping Russia in check signals its willingness to also hold China's military ambitions in check in Asia.

Trump has said opposing Russia in its invasion of Ukraine is not a vital American national strategic interest. DeSantis has said "becoming further entangled in a territorial dispute between Ukraine and Russia is not one of" the United States' vital national interests.

Pence, reflecting the consensus of Republican candidates for president, does not support U.S. troops on the ground in Ukraine.

But the percentage of Americans who say the U.S. is providing too much military aid to Ukraine has steadily grown, driven by Republicans, since the war began in 2022, according to a Pew Research Center survey published last month.

According to the poll, 44% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said the U.S. was providing too much military aid to Ukraine, up from 40% and the highest mark since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

In describing his trip to Ukrainian villages attacked early in the war, Pence described what he said was a mass grave that included bodies of "more than 500 unarmed civilians who were gunned down in the streets. Men, women and children."

"I think we need to stand firm, stand strong," Pence said in the interview. "I'm going to do that, while others may be giving way to a more populist sentiment."

PA suspect left will, acting agitated days before shootings,

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The man accused in the fatal shooting spree in Philadelphia that left five people dead and four others wounded Monday night left a will at his house, and according to a roommate had acted agitated and wore a tactical vest around his house in the days before the shooting, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Kimbrady Carriker was arraigned Wednesday morning on five counts of murder, attempted murder, aggravated assault and weapons counts of possession without a license and carrying firearms in public, prosecutors said. The 40-year-old is accused of killing a man later found dead inside a house and then gunning down four others before surrendering to police.

A 2-year-old boy and a 13-year-old youth were also wounded by gunfire and another 2-year-old boy and a woman were hit by shattered glass in the rampage that made the working-class area in southwest Philadelphia the site of the nation's worst violence around the July Fourth holiday.

Joanne Pescatore, supervisor of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Homicide and Non-Fatal Shooting Unit, said at least one of the seven roommates who lived with Carriker told investigators he was wearing the vest in the days before the shooting and had the guns in the house. Pescatore said the roommate described him as being more and more agitated in recent days.

"Their way of dealing with it was just to avoid contact with him ... as he became more and more agitated," she said at a news conference Wednesday, just blocks from where the shootings took place.

District Attorney Larry Krasner declined to discuss Carriker's mental health when asked whether it might have factored into the killings, but said he expected that the defense would request an evaluation.

A representative of the Defender Association of Philadelphia said he believed the office would be representing Carriker, but declined to comment further.

Prosecutors said they recovered a handgun, a will dated June 23 and other evidence during a search of Carriker's home. They declined to discuss details of the will or whether it indicated that Carriker had been planning the attack.

Police initially took another person who had fired shots at Carriker Monday night into custody, but prosecutors said Wednesday that person legally possessed a firearm and fired at Carriker after his brother was shot. He was released without charges.

Court records show Carriker pleaded guilty in January 2005 to a misdemeanor charge of carrying a firearm without a license and was sentenced to three years of probation.

At a separate news conference Wednesday afternoon to announce a lawsuit filed by the city of Philadelphia against several makers of self-made gun kits and gun parts, officials said that both guns found on Carriker after he was taken into custody appeared to be self-manufactured—commonly called ghost guns.

Off The Wall

Iowa man wins Fourth of July Key Lime Pie Eating Championship

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—New York had its hot dog eating contest to celebrate Independence Day. But the Florida Keys had a sweeter alternative on Tuesday.

The Key Lime Pie Eating Championship in Key West, where Key lime pie originated, was won by Joshua Mogle, a 38-year-old Altoona, Iowa, tire manufacturing manager.

Mogle plunged face-first into a 9-inch pie smothered with whipped cream during the challenge, whose rules forbid contestants to use their hands.

The gooey competition has become a subtropical substitute to Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest.

Mogle consumed the confection in three minutes and 35 seconds, besting 24 rivals in the culmination of Key West's five-day Key Lime Festival.

"Eat… eat… eat… always have pie in my mouth," said Mogle, when asked about the strategy he employed.

Experts believe Key lime pie was developed in the late 1800s in Key West. Its primary ingredients are condensed milk, egg yolks and the juice of tiny yellow Key limes, typically with a graham cracker crust and whipped cream or meringue topping.

In 2006, the tart, creamy dessert was designated Florida's official pie by the state legislature.

The competition took place less than 24 hours after a Key lime pie measuring 13.14 feet (4 meters) in diameter, to be submitted for certification as the world's largest, was created for the Florida Keys' bicentennial celebration.

July 3 marked the 200th anniversary of the Florida Territorial Legislature's establishment of Monroe County, containing the entire Keys island chain.

AP

In this photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, Joshua Mogle, right, of Altoona, Iowa, buries his face in a Key lime pie as he eats his way to victory at the World Famous Key Lime Pie Eating Championship Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in Key West, Fla.

South Korean gov't changes how it counts people's ages

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As South Korea campaigns to retire an old and odd age-counting method that makes people a year or two older than they really are, children are among the few who seem most eager to stick with the past.

"I turned 6 and then became 5 again," Kim Da-in said when a TV reporter asked her about a new law that went into effect Wednesday that formalizes the international age-counting method in administrative and civil laws and encourages people to tally their own ages accordingly.

South Korea's traditional age-counting custom considers every person 1 year old at birth and adds another year when the calendar hits Jan. 1, meaning a child born on Dec. 31 turns 2 the next day.

While the new law is the country's latest attempt to retire that method and standardize international ages based on the passing of birthdays, it's not immediately clear what will actually change—putting aside the minor frustrations of children like Da-in waiting for their birthdays.

President Yoon Suk Yeol has described standardizing international ages as a key goal of his government, citing a need to reduce "social and administrative confusion" and disputes. But officials in South Korea's Ministry of Government Legislation acknowledge the new law won't meaningfully change how the country's public services are done, as most are already based on international ages.

Federal judge throws out lawsuit filed by chess star over cheating allegations

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a 19-year-old chess grandmaster who alleged his career was ruined by allegations that he had cheated.

Last year, Hans Niemann sued former world champion Magnus Carlsen and the online chess organization Chess.com. He was seeking $100 million in damages for slander and libel.

In a lawsuit filed in federal court in St. Louis, Niemann also accused Carlsen and Chess.com of violating antitrust laws by merging online playing platforms and refusing to let him play on them.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Audrey Fleissig found Niemann's antitrust claims had no merit. She also dismissed libel and slander claims because she said she didn't have jurisdiction to oversee them, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

The lawsuit came after Niemann shocked the chess world by defeating Carlsen at the Sinquefield Cup last year in St. Louis, ending Carlsen's world-record unbeaten streak. Carlsen accused Niemann of cheating and withdrew from the tournament.

Niemann said that after the cheating allegations were made, tournaments banned him, matches were canceled, and reputable chess schools wouldn't hire him.

The lawsuit contends Carlsen. generally considered one of the greatest chess champions in the world, was trying to preserve his status as the "King of Chess" and to complete a deal with Chess.com to acquire Play Magnus for nearly $83 million.

Carlsen's attorney, Craig Reiser, said Niemann's lawsuit was an "attempt to recover an undeserved windfall" and "chill speech through strategic litigation."

A sweet slice of history: Florida Keys mark 200th birthday with a giant pie

BIG PINE KEY, Fla. (AP)—Partying never gets old in the Florida Keys—especially for a milestone birthday like No. 200.

The Florida Keys celebrated its bicentennial Monday along the Gulf of Mexico with a Key lime pie more than 13 feet (4 meters) in diameter—which organizers intend to certify as a world record.

The festivities marked the anniversary of the Florida Territorial Legislature's establishment of Monroe County on July 3, 1823 and celebrated its history. The county contains all of the Keys and a portion of Everglades National Park.

During the Civil War, Key West remained in Union hands as a base for a naval blockade of Confederate shipping. In the early 1900s, Standard Oil millionaire Henry Flagler spearheaded the construction of the Florida Keys Over-Sea Railroad that became widely known as the eighth wonder of the world.

And for nearly six months of his 1945-1953 presidency, Harry Truman governed the U.S. from his Key West "Little White House" that is now Florida's only presidential museum.

AP

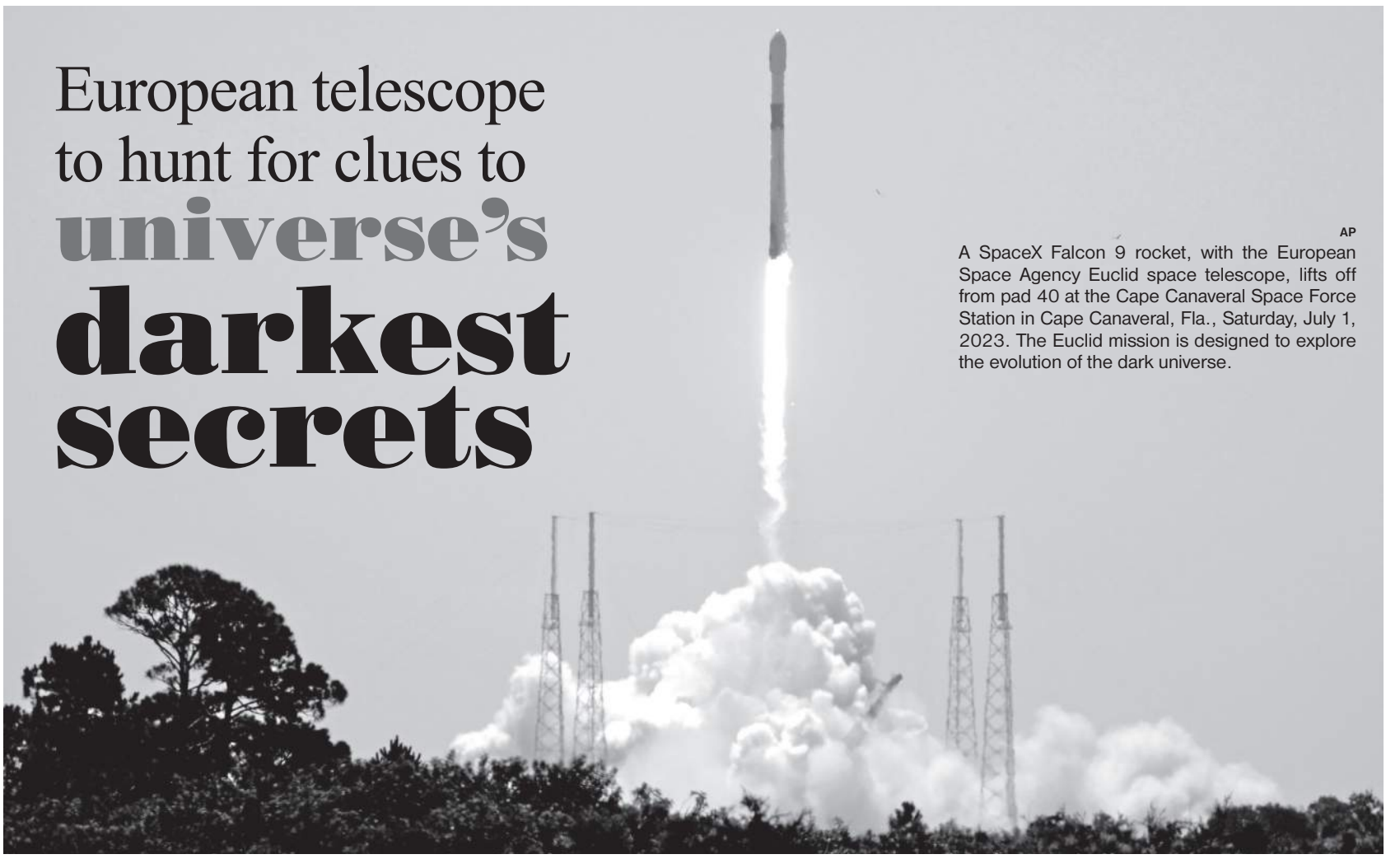
In this photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, chefs Paul Menta, front right and David Sloan, back right, put finishing touches on a gargantuan Key lime pie created for a 200th Florida Keys birthday celebration Monday, July 3, 2023, on Big Pine Key, Fla.

Key lime pie, originating in late 1800s Key West, is a large part of the continental United States' southernmost island chain's heritage. In 2006, Key lime pie was designated Florida's official pie by the state Legislature.

Monday's bicentennial version of the creamy dessert, prepared by local chefs, featured a traditional graham-cracker crust and whipped cream topping as well as the juice from several thousand Key limes.

Science & Technology

European telescope to hunt for clues to universe's darkest secrets



AP

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with the European Space Agency Euclid space telescope, lifts off from pad 40 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Saturday, July 1, 2023. The Euclid mission is designed to explore the evolution of the dark universe.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A European space telescope blasted off Saturday on a quest to explore the mysterious and invisible realm known as the dark universe.

SpaceX launched the European Space Agency's Euclid observatory toward its ultimate destination 1 million miles (1.5 million kilometers) away, the Webb Space Telescope's neighborhood. It will take a month to get there and another two months before it starts its ambitious six-year survey this fall.

Flight controllers in Germany declared success nearly an hour into the flight, applauding and shouting "Yes!" as the telescope phoned home after a smooth liftoff.

"I'm so thrilled, I'm so excited to see now this mission up in space, knowing it is on its way," the European Space Agency's director general, Josef Aschbacher, said from the Florida launch site.

Named for antiquity's Greek mathematician, Euclid will scour billions of galaxies covering more than one-third of the sky. By pinpointing the location and shape of galaxies up to 10 billion light-years away—almost all the way back to the cosmos-creating Big Bang—scientists hope to glean insight into the dark energy and dark matter that make up most of the universe and keep it expanding.

Scientists understand only 5 percent of the universe: stars, planets, us. The rest is "still a mystery and an enigma, a huge frontier in modern physics that we hope this mission will actually help to push forward," the European Space Agency's science director, Carole Mundell, said just before liftoff.

The telescope's highly anticipated 3D map of the cosmos will span both space and time in a bid to explain how the dark universe evolved and why its expansion is speeding up.

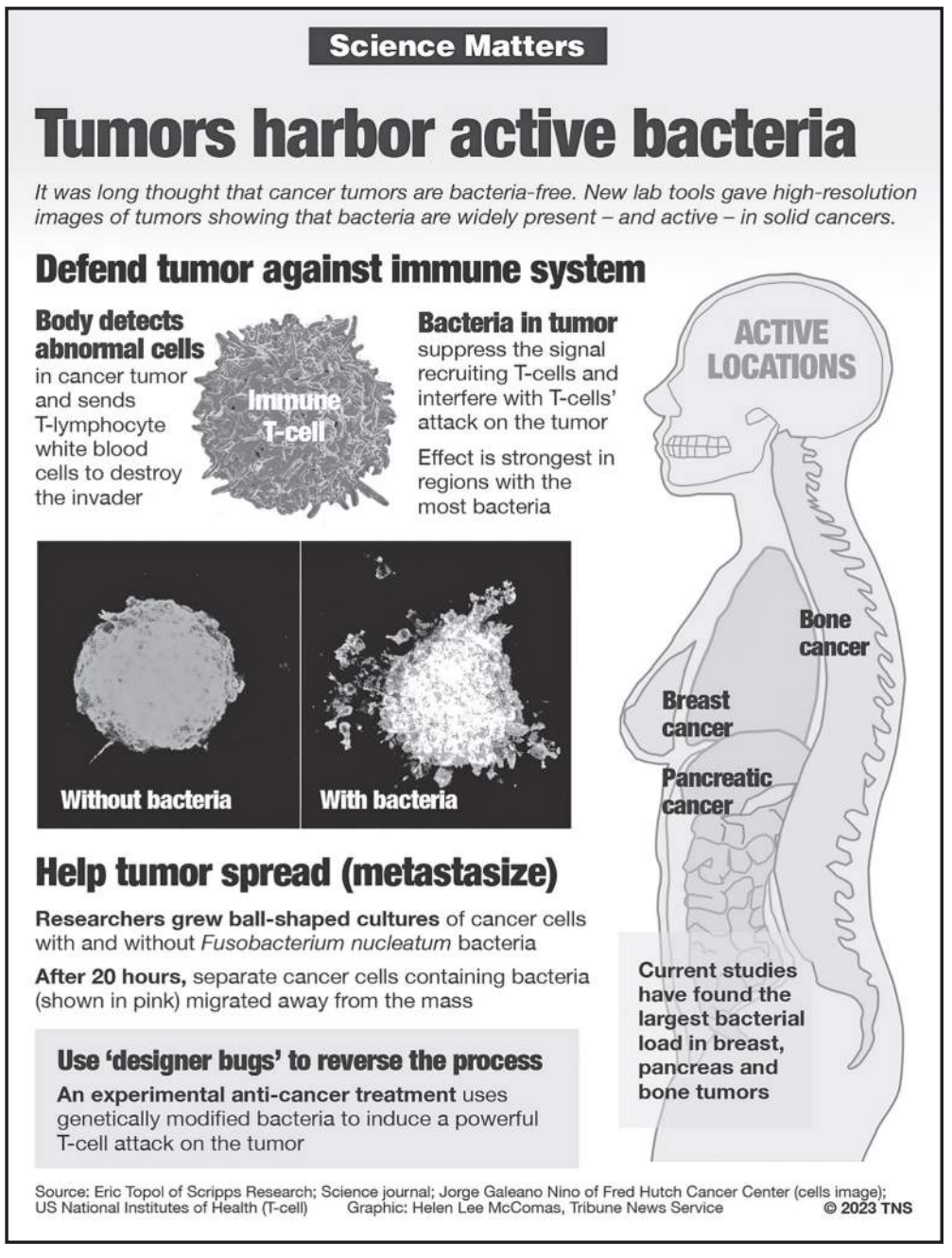
The lead scientist for the $1.5 billion mission (1.4 billion euros) said Euclid will measure dark energy and dark matter with unprecedented precision.

"It's more than a space telescope, Euclid. It's really a dark energy detector," Rene Laureijs noted.

Fifteen feet (4.7 meters) tall and almost as wide, Euclid sports a 1.2-meter (4-foot) telescope and two scientific instruments capable of observing the cosmos in both visible light and the near infrared. A huge sunshield is designed to keep the sensitive systems at the properly frigid temperatures.

NASA, which contributed Euclid's infrared detectors, has its own mission coming up to better understand dark energy and dark matter: the Roman Space Telescope due to launch in 2027. The US-European Webb telescope can also join in this quest, officials said.

Euclid was supposed to launch on a Russian rocket from French Guiana in South America, Europe's main spaceport. The European and Russian space agencies cut ties following the invasion of Ukraine last year, and the telescope switched to a SpaceX ride from Cape Canaveral. Waiting for Europe's next-generation, yet-to-fly Ariane rocket would have meant a two-year-plus delay, according to project manager Giuseppe Racca.


Science Matters
Tumors harbor active bacteria
It was long thought that cancer tumors are bacteria-free. New lab tools gave high-resolution images of tumors showing that bacteria are widely present – and active – in solid cancers.
Defend tumor against immune system
Body detects abnormal cells in cancer tumor and sends T-lymphocyte white blood cells to destroy the invader
Immune T-cell
Bacteria in tumor suppress the signal recruiting T-cells and interfere with T-cells' attack on the tumor
Effect is strongest in regions with the most bacteria
Without bacteria
With bacteria
Help tumor spread (metastasize)
Researchers grew ball-shaped cultures of cancer cells with and without Fusobacterium nucleatum bacteria
After 20 hours, separate cancer cells containing bacteria (shown in pink) migrated away from the mass
Use 'designer bugs' to reverse the process
An experimental anti-cancer treatment uses genetically modified bacteria to induce a powerful T-cell attack on the tumor
ACTIVE LOCATIONS
Bone cancer
Breast cancer
Pancreatic cancer
Current studies have found the largest bacterial load in breast, pancreas and bone tumors
Source: Eric Topol of Scripps Research; Science journal; Jorge Galeano Nino of Fred Hutch Cancer Center (cells image); US National Institutes of Health (T-cell)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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China restricts exports of high-tech metals in slap at Washington ahead of Yellen visit

BEIJING (AP)—China has imposed export curbs on two metals used in computer chips and solar cells, expanding a squabble with Washington over high-tech trade ahead of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's visit to Beijing this week.

The controls on gallium and germanium are intended to "safeguard national security," the Commerce Ministry said late Monday. It said exports will require official permission once the rules take effect Aug. 1 but did not say what restrictions might be applied.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is frustrated by U.S. curbs on access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds. But Beijing has been slow to retaliate, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling developers of chips, artificial intelligence and other technology.

Yellen is due to arrive Thursday as part of efforts by the Biden administration to revive relations that have plunged to their lowest level in decades due to disputes about technology, China's military buildup, human rights and other irritants.

China is the biggest global source of gallium and germanium, which are produced in small amounts but are needed to make computer chips for mobile phones, cars and other products, as well as solar panels and military technology.

The United States gets about half its supply of both metals directly from China, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. China exported about 23 metric tons (25 tons) of gallium last year and produces about 600 metric tons (660 tons) of germanium per year.

The United States has blocked Chinese access to advanced chips and the technology to manufacture them and has persuaded allies the Netherlands and Japan to limit exports of chipmaking tools.

That threatens to delay or derail the ruling Communist Party's ambitions to make China more prosperous and increase its global influence by becoming a leader in clean energy, telecoms, artificial intelligence and other technologies.

In May, Beijing banned use of products from Micron Inc., the biggest U.S. producer of memory chips, in computers and network equipment deemed sensitive.

Life & Style

Aretha Franklin's sons battle over her handwritten wills

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—Five years after her death, the final wishes of music superstar Aretha Franklin are still unsettled. An unusual trial begins next Monday to determine which of two handwritten wills, including one found in couch cushions, will guide how her estate is handled.

The Queen of Soul, who had four sons, did not have a formal, typewritten will in place, despite years of health problems and efforts to get one done. But under Michigan law, it's still possible to treat other documents—with scribbles, scratch-outs and hard-to-read passages—as her commands.

The dispute is pitting a son against other sons. Ted White II believes papers dated in 2010 should mainly control the estate, while Kecalf Franklin and Edward Franklin favor a 2014 document. Both were discovered in Franklin's suburban Detroit home, months after her death from pancreatic cancer in 2018 at age 76.

Franklin

"Does it surprise me that someone passed away before they had their ducks in a row? The answer is never," said Pat Simasko, who specializes in wills and estates and teaches elder law at Michigan State University College of Law.

"This can be settled any time, on the steps, halfway through trial," he said. "And hopefully it will be. Going to a jury trial is a war."

Here's a look at the case:

Franklin's death

Franklin was a global star for decades, known especially for hits like "Think," "I Say a Little Prayer" and "Respect." She was treated like royalty in death, her body transported in a 1940 Cadillac hearse to a Detroit museum where thousands of people visited in August 2018.

"She was the people's diva," sociologist Michael Eric Dyson said at the time.

It was immediately known that Franklin had died without a will, which meant her four sons likely would share assets worth millions, including real estate in suburban Detroit, furs, gowns, jewelry and future royalties from her works. A niece, Sabrina Owens, agreed to be personal representative or executor.

"My advice? Go slow, be careful and be smart," Franklin's friend, businessman Ron Moten, told the sons at the funeral.

Wait—what's this?

Months later, in spring 2019, the estate was turned upside down. Owens reported that a handwritten will dated 2010 was found in a cabinet and another handwritten will, dated 2014, was discovered inside a notebook under cushions at Franklin's home.

There are differences between the documents, though they both seem to indicate the sons would share income from music and copyrights. The older will lists White and Owens as co-executors and says Kecalf and Edward Franklin "must take business classes and get a certificate or a degree" to benefit from the estate.

But the 2014 version crosses out White's name as executor and has Kecalf Franklin in his place. There's no mention of business classes. Kecalf Franklin and grandchildren would get his mother's main home in Bloomfield Hills, which was valued at $1.1 million when she died but is worth much more today.

"It's the crown jewel," said Craig Smith, attorney for Edward Franklin

Aretha Franklin wrote in 2014 that her gowns could be auctioned or go to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. She indicated in both papers that oldest son, Clarence, who lives under a guardianship, must be regularly supported.

"Two inconsistent wills cannot both be admitted to probate. In such cases the most recent will revokes the previous will," Charles McKelvie, a lawyer for Kecalf Franklin, said in a court filing in favor of the 2014 document.

But White's attorney, Kurt Olson, said the 2010 will was notarized and signed, while the later version "is merely a draft."

"If this document were intended to be a will there would have been more care than putting it in a spiral notebook under a couch cushion," Olson said.

Intent is key

Simasko, the law instructor, said final wishes can be fulfilled in Michigan through an informal will.

"If you're sitting there on a Sunday afternoon and you start handwriting your own wishes, the law allows it as long as the rules are followed: It's in your handwriting, it's dated and it's signed," he said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Alan Alda offers for auction his boots and dog tags from 'M*A*S*H'

DALLAS (AP)—The combat boots and dog tags that Alan Alda wore to portray the wisecracking surgeon Hawkeye on the beloved television series "M-A-S-H" meant so much to him that when the show ended 40 years ago, he kept them. But he's now ready to let the pieces go, in service of another passion: his center dedicated to helping scientists and doctors communicate better. Heritage Auctions is offering up the worn boots and military identification tags on July 28 in Dallas. Alda, 87, said he wore the boots and dog tags for the 11-season run of the show centering on a Korean War medical unit. Alda's character, Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce, was a talented surgeon who helped ease the stress of working in a war zone with quick quips and practical jokes. When the show ended in 1983 with an episode written and directed by Alda, it attracted the largest U.S. audience for any TV show in history.

Coco Lee, Hong Kong singer, dies at 48

HONG KONG (AP)—Coco Lee, a Hong Kong-born singer and songwriter who had a highly successful career in Asia, has died by suicide, her siblings said Wednesday. She was 48. The star had been suffering from depression for several years, Lee's elder sisters Carol and Nancy Lee said in a statement posted on Facebook and Instagram, with her condition deteriorating drastically over the last few months. "Although, CoCo sought professional help and did her best to fight depression, sadly that demon inside of her took the better of her," the statement read.

Lee attempted suicide at home over the weekend and she was rushed to a hospital, her sister said. They said that she was in a coma and died on Wednesday. Born Ferren Lee in Hong Kong, Lee later moved to the U.S. where she attended middle and high school in San Francisco. She became a singer after winning first runner up in an annual singing competition held by broadcaster TVB in Hong Kong, and released her first album in 1994 at the age of 19.

Toby Keith's shows mark return to stage after revealing cancer diagnosis

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—Country music star Toby Keith was back on stage over the Fourth of July weekend with his first shows since revealing last summer that he had been fighting stomach cancer. Hundreds attended the native Oklahoman's pop-up concerts Friday and Saturday night in Norman, where he lives, The Oklahoman reports. He performed at Hollywood Corners, a 1920s roadhouse and service station that he bought and converted into a deli, bar and music venue. Norman resident Joanna Hall, who attended Friday's show, told the newspaper that Keith put on a great performance and was "very thankful for everybody who showed up."

"He seemed a little taken aback that that many people were there," Hall said. "He was like, 'This was supposed to be a secret. ... This was a bigger secret than what I intended.' "

Sean "Diddy" Combs' dispute with Diageo deepens

Rapper, producer and entrepreneur Sean "Diddy" Combs is asking the New York Supreme Court to enforce a 2021 agreement that requires spirits seller Diageo to treat his DeLeon tequila brand "at least as favorably" as its other tequila brands. Combs signed the agreement with Diageo - which owns more than 200 brands including Guinness beer and Tanqueray gin - after what he says were years of neglect for DeLeon, a brand he established with the London company in 2013. Combs' lawsuit against Diageo was filed in May. But many details, including the 2021 agreement, were redacted at the time. On Wednesday, those details were released after Judge Joel Cohen ruled that Diageo could keep only limited portions confidential. Combs says Diageo's treatment of DeLeon worsened after it bought two competing tequila brands: Don Julio in 2014 and Casamigos in 2017. Combs, who is Black, says Diageo positioned his tequila as an inferior "urban" brand and limited its distribution. ***(AP)***

Marriage at a crossroads due to lack of intimacy

DEAR ABBY: I'm 55 and have been married to my husband for 22 years. He was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease 12 years ago. He's mobile but on oxygen and has lost most of his stamina. At this point, everything in our life (friends, family and social life) revolves around his disease. He responds to any invitation we receive with, "We will see" which turns into a "no" or "I'd rather not," on the day of the event. I am free to attend on my own. Many of my friends have never met my husband, and some joke that I'm not really married.

I can live with this situation except for the lack of intimacy and sex. Sex was never a central part of our relationship, but the nearly complete lack of intimacy over the last 10 years has been frustrating. If I try to discuss "my needs," he gets defensive and says, "File for divorce then!"

Since the last blow-up a couple months ago, I have tried to ignore my needs, but that isn't working. I am becoming judgmental and critical, and I know that living this way will make me increasingly resent him. My struggle is the thought of leaving someone I swore "for better or worse" with, for the selfishness of "my needs." Any advice?

NEEDY IN ALASKA

DEAR NEEDY: Raise the subject again with your husband. When he says, "Well, divorce me then!" ask him if he really means what he is saying because there may be another option. There are no hard-and-fast rules for the situation in which you find yourself, and some couples deal with it discreetly. Ask yourself what you would do if the situation were reversed. Would you want your husband to find an outlet for his sexual urges outside the marriage? If your honest answer is yes, and because you can no longer tolerate the status quo, your husband deserves to know what is on your mind.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who has been with my spouse for 22 years, married for eight. During all that time, she has yet to set boundaries with her birth family. While we rarely argue, when we do, it's usually over a request for money or some kind of infringement made by her relatives. I'm powerless to get ahead of their requests because I find out only after the fact that money was loaned or space in my garage is being used to store their stuff, etc.

We started our relationship in therapy because of this situation and, 22 years in, we're still in the same place. We hardly talk anymore, and I'm deeply saddened. I don't know what the next steps should be. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

STUCK IN ARIZONA

DEAR STUCK: Sometimes progress is two steps forward and one step back. In your case, you and your spouse need to take one step back. Consult another therapist for help negotiating a solution to your wife's lack of boundaries and her habit of making financial and other commitments to her relatives without first clearing them with you.

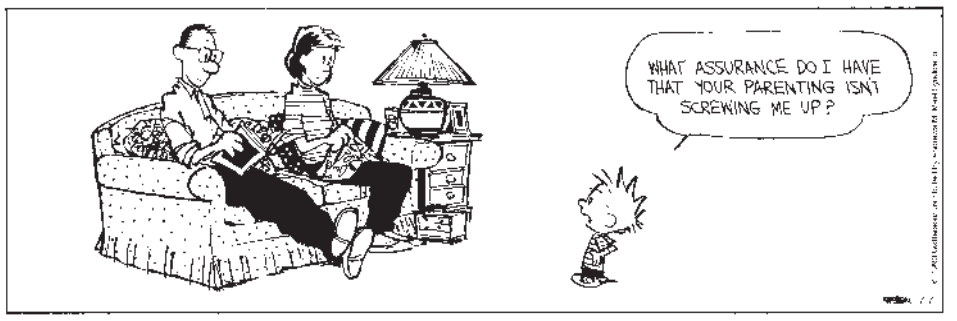
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

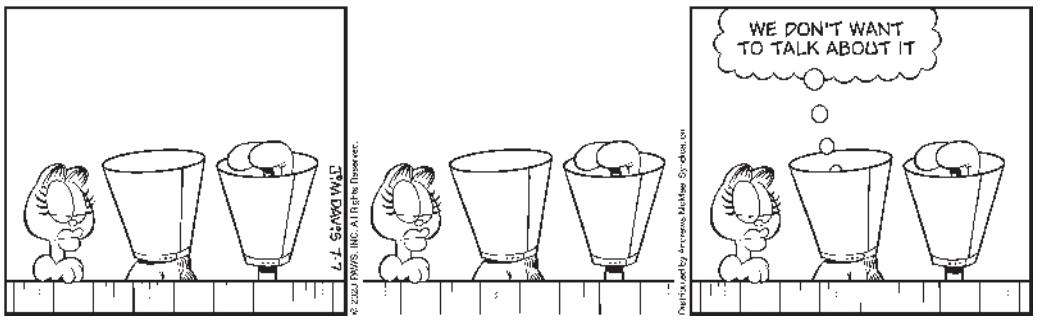
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



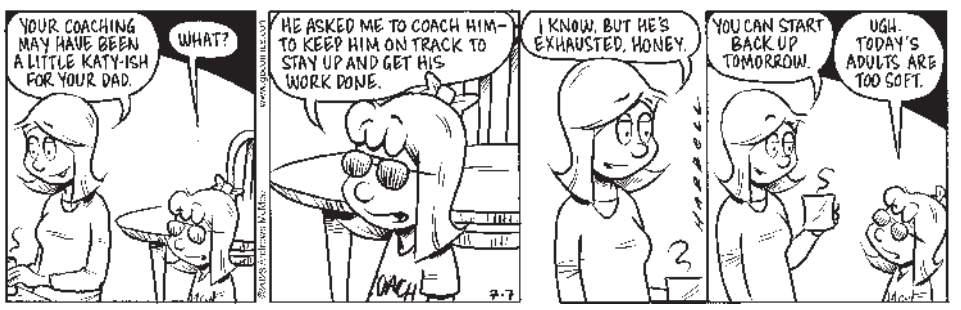
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



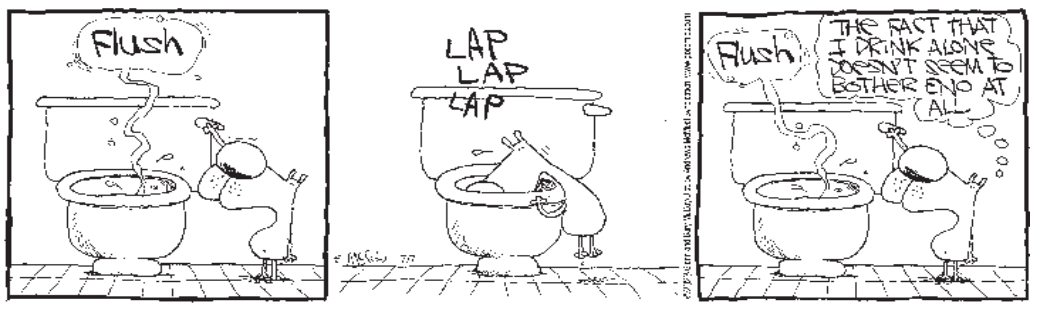
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOUR COACHING MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE KATY-ISH FOR YOUR DAD.
WHAT?
HE ASKED ME TO COACH HIM-TO KEEP HIM ON TRACK TO STAY UP AND GET HIS WORK DONE.
I KNOW. BUT HE'S EXHAUSTED, HONEY.
YOU CAN START BACK UP TOMORROW.
UGH. TODAY'S ADULTS ARE TOO SOFT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 PC program
4 Grand tale
8 Deep cut
12 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
13 Diner's card
14 Former mates
15 Flemish cartographer
17 Salamander
18 Narrow waterway
19 "Aladdin" monkey
21 Aviate
22 Sneezer's need
26 Minnesota's 10,000+
29 "— -hoo!"
30 UFO crew
31 Decorates with frosting
32 Sailor
33 Radar dot
34 Blunder
35 Annoy
36 Pilot portrayed by Tom Hanks
37 Romeo's city
39 "— Town"
40 Business mag
41 Ridiculous
45 German city
48 One who makes a will
50 Nonsense
51 Autobahn auto
52 Director DuVernay
53 Canonized Fr. women
54 Demolish, in Dover
55 Clothes line

DOWN
1 Charitable gift
2 Artist Mondrian
3 Kitten's sound
4 Online messages
5 Trivial
6 Daughter of Cadmus
7 Museum VIP
8 Category
9 Chopper
10 Stitch
11 DDE predecessor
16 Bistros
20 Life story
23 Vend
24 Gas co., for one
25 Catch sight of
26 "Ray Donovan" star Schreiber
27 Farmland unit
28 Actress Deborah
29 Tibetan bovine
32 Caterpillar product
33 Anatomical sac
35 Hostel
36 Nuanced
38 Cries from sties
39 Caravan stops
42 Nevada neighbor
43 Peregrinate
44 Apothecary measure
45 Small ammo
46 Chic no more
47 Away from SSW
49 Clean air org.

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	O	A	D	■	C	H	A	I	■	P	C	S
A	N	N	O	■	H	U	N	S	■	R	I	O
P	E	A	H	I	A	R	I	S	■	E	A	U
D	I	G	S	U	P	■	■	U	P	F	O	R
■	■	■	E	X	■	T	I	I	E	R	E	■
K	F	P	T	■	F	F	F	■	O	R	C	A
A	R	F	■	■	I	T	R	■	■	T	I	M
T	A	K	E	■	O	O	O	■	B	C	X	Y
■	■	O	L	S	E	N	■	C	R	■	■	■
C	L	E	F	T	■	■	S	C	O	R	E	S
H	G	T	■	P	L	O	T	T	W	I	S	T
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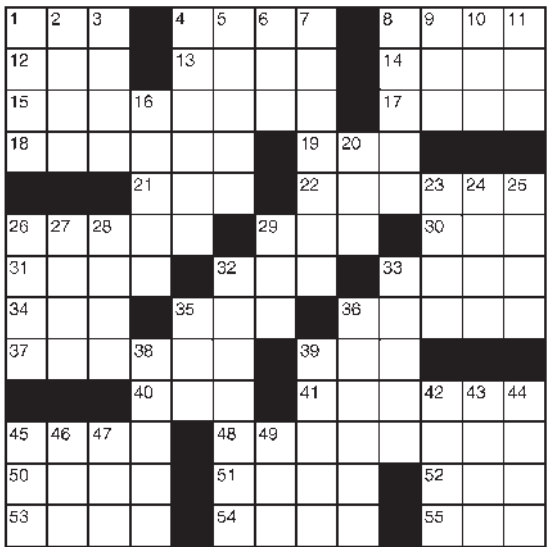
Yesterday's answer 7-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Kwan, 43; Berenice Bejo, 47; Shelley Duvall, 74; Ringo Starr, 83.

Happy Birthday: A thorough approach to whatever you do will pay off this year. Dedication, loyalty, compassion and common sense will take you to a place that offers peace of mind. Refuse to let what others do tempt you to make poor decisions. Choose honor and integrity over risk and manipulation. Look for alternatives that help you focus on what's important to you. Face the future with optimism, imagination and fearlessness. Your numbers are 6, 13, 18, 24, 36, 40, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do something physical that will ease stress, keep you from saying something you shouldn't and encourage you to do your own thing. Personal improvements will lift you and motivate you to do something you enjoy. Stick to a budget and have fun. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consistency will lead to success. You'll gain ground if you are persistent and willing to do the work yourself. Don't put things off due to temptation or interference. Make your voice heard and your plans feasible. Protect against injury and illness. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Bide your time. Spontaneity and haste will take you in the wrong direction. Work alone to avoid interference. Ask experts questions, but trust in yourself to make decisions. Personal improvements will attract attention. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Avoid controlling situations. Speak on your behalf to ensure you get both your point across and recognition for your thoughts and solutions. Hard work, intuition and intelligence will help you bring about positive change. Put faith in yourself, not others. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take care of financial, legal or health matters swiftly. You'll learn something that helps you cut corners and save time and money. Don't let a decision someone makes ruin your plans. Carry on by yourself or with someone like-minded. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Adjust and carry on as planned. Use your knowledge, skills and experience in unique ways to get ahead or to help others. Turn a joint venture into a social event. A trip or shopping spree will go over budget if you aren't careful. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do your best and finish what you start. Making a good impression is crucial if you want to get ahead. Conflicts between personal and professional responsibilities will lead to trouble. Communication and compromise will help alleviate a problem. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to get angry or frustrated with others. Instead, put a unique touch on whatever you do, and you'll come out ahead. Express your thoughts and desires with compassion and empathy for others. Address issues that can cause problems before they become overwhelming. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Temptation to get involved in endeavors that sound too good to be true will engross you. Step back and rethink what's best for you before you commit to something debatable. Pay attention, and you'll avoid getting trapped or paying for someone else's mistake. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Sharing will backfire on you. Do your thing and pay your way. Set high standards and take the initiative to add unique touches that will be noticed and admired. Taking on someone else's fight will be costly. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Remain consistent to avoid backlash. Too many changes will make people question what you are doing. Designate how much you want to spend and on what before signing an agreement. A kind gesture will leave you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make plans to have fun. Let your ideas shine through, and you'll gain approval from someone you love and respect. Don't be too quick to give someone access to your financial picture. Some things are best not shared for the time being. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are courageous, strong and empathetic. You are helpful and consistent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4			2		7	
5					6			
	7							8
6		7		8		2		5
3			7		5			1
	1							
			3		7	4		
4	2			5	1			
7	9		6					

Difficulty: ★★★★ 7/7

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday's Answer

3	9	4	6	1	8	2	7	5
1	5	8	4	2	7	9	3	6
2	6	7	9	5	3	1	4	8
8	3	2	7	6	4	5	9	1
9	1	6	3	8	5	7	2	4
4	7	5	1	9	2	6	8	3
5	2	3	8	7	6	4	1	9
6	4	1	2	3	9	8	5	7
7	8	9	5	4	1	3	6	2

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CALIFORNIA TULE ELK Solution: 4 letters

S	T	A	M	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	T	O	O	R
U	H	A	B	I	T	A	T	E	K	S	A	B	I	G
N	F	O	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W	O	V	E	N
S	O	G	R	E	E	N	D	I	E	T	E	N	L	I
H	R	M	D	E	R	E	I	T	E	R	E	A	A	H
I	E	E	L	K	N	U	L	A	R	D	D	Y	I	T
N	S	T	M	I	L	A	T	E	R	I	L	E	N	O
E	T	S	R	M	N	A	T	A	T	F	F	L	N	L
D	P	A	E	D	U	A	G	R	N	R	O	L	E	C
U	M	D	O	O	W	S	S	O	O	W	G	A	R	O
M	A	R	S	H	E	N	G	G	O	P	O	V	E	A
H	W	R	S	V	A	A	S	S	G	N	I	R	P	S
S	S	E	A	K	R	E	T	A	M	I	L	C	G	T
I	R	E	E	D	S	E	P	A	C	S	D	N	A	L
F	L	O	W	E	R	S	E	E	R	T	R	A	I	L

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Animals, Basket, Climate, Clothing, Coast, Diet, Dragonfly, Elk, Fish, Flowers, Fog, Forest, Freshwater, Frogs, Garden, Green, Grow, Habitat, Lagoon, Landscape, Leaves, Marine, Marsh, Mats, Mud, Nature, Perennial, Rain, Reeds, River, Roots, Shore, Snake, Springs, Stem, Summer, Sunshine, Swamp, Tidal, Trail, Tree, Tropical, Valley, Wetland, Wildlife, Wood, Woven

Yesterday's Answer: Breathe In

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Phillies beat the AL-leading Rays for their 11th straight road victory

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Taijuan Walker overcome early struggles to win his sixth consecutive start and the Philadelphia Phillies extended their road winning streak to 11 games with an 8-4 victory over the AL-leading Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday night.

It's the third-longest road winning streak in Phillies history, trailing a 13-game run in 1976 and 12-game stretch that spanned the 1887 and '88 seasons. Tampa Bay has lost a season-high four in a row and 10 of 16 overall.

Walker (10-3) allowed four runs and five hits, all in the first three of his seven-inning outing. Bryson Stott had four hits as Philadelphia finished with 17 hits overall. Bryce Harper went 2 for 5 in his fifth consecutive game with two hits.

The Phillies grabbed a 5-4 lead on Trea Turner's leadoff homer and Stott's RBI single in the fifth. Nick Castellanos extended the Phillies' advantage to 6-4 on a 437-foot homer to center off Robert Stephenson.

Luke Raley homered for Tampa Bay. Yonny Chirinos (4-4) was the loser.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Alec Bohm (28) and Bryson Stott celebrate an 8-4 win over the Tampa Bay Rays during a baseball game Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

METS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PHOENIX (AP)—Francisco Alvarez homered to tie it with two outs in the ninth, Mark Canha tripled in the go-ahead run and New York beat Arizona.

The Mets won their fourth in a row, but they waited until they were down to their last strike, when Alvarez homered to right field off Andrew Chafin (2-2), the fourth Arizona pitcher of the game.

Alvarez, the rookie catcher, flung his bat joyfully in the air as he neared first base and saw the ball clear the wall for his 15th homer. He leads the majors with five tying or go-ahead home runs in the sixth inning or later.

Brett Baty followed with a ground single to right and, after a mound visit, Canha tripled to the 413-foot sign in right-center to score Baty.

Kodai Senga (7-5) matched his season high with 12 strikeouts over eight innings. Christian Walker led off the seventh with a home run well over the wall in left-center to break a scoreless tie, and until two out and nobody on in the ninth, it looked as if it would be enough for the NL West-leading Diamondbacks.

BRAVES 8, GUARDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—All-Stars Sean Murphy and Matt Olson homered and Atlanta bounced back from a rare loss to rout Cleveland.

Murphy hit a solo shot in the third inning off Cal Quantrill (2-6), Olson hit a 428-foot blast in the ninth and the Braves had 19 hits and took the series finale after their winning streak was stopped at nine Tuesday.

Austin Riley also connected as the Braves homered in their 23rd straight game, baseball's longest stretch of long balls this season. They lead the majors with 166 homers and are on pace to break the season record of 309 set by Minnesota in 2019.

Atlanta has won 18 of 20 and 25 of 29. Michael Tonkin (5-2) worked 3 1/3 scoreless innings.

ORIOLES 6, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Touted prospect Colton Cowser hit an RBI single in his major league debut and scored the go-ahead run when fellow rookie Jordan Westburg followed with a two-run triple, sending Dean Kremer and Baltimore past New York.

Kremer (9-4) struck out a career-high 10 in seven innings of four-hit ball. Ryan O'Hearn lined a two-run homer in the ninth, and All-Star relievers Yennier Cano and Félix Bautista combined to get the final six outs as the second-place Orioles won for the second time in eight games. Bautista got four outs for his 23rd save.

Josh Donaldson and Anthony Volpe homered for the Yankees, who had won the first two games of this four-game series between AL East playoff contenders. Kyle Higashioka had an RBI single. Nick Ramirez (0-1) took the loss.

DODGERS 6, PIRATES 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J.D. Martinez and David Peralta homered back-to-back in the fifth inning, helping Los Angeles overcome a four-run deficit to beat Pittsburgh.

Martinez connected on an 0-2 pitch from reliever Roansy Contreras (3-7) for his 20th homer, a go-ahead, three-run shot to left-center that scored Will Smith and Max Muncy, who drew consecutive walks. Peralta followed with a 406-foot solo shot to the lower right-field seats for a 6-4 lead.

Reynolds had a solo homer off Dodgers starter Bobby Miller (5-1) in the first. The Pirates extended the lead to 4-0 on Suwinski's three-run blast in the fourth.

Daniel Hudson earned his first save in 13 months.

RED SOX 4, RANGERS 2

BOSTON (AP)—Brayan Bello took a shutout into the sixth inning, Justin Turner had two hits and a pair of RBIs and Boston beat slumping Texas.

Corey Seager had three hits for the Rangers, and Adolis Garcia celebrated being selected for the Home Run Derby by hitting one that counted, a two-run shot in the sixth that made it 3-2.

But those were the only runs against Bello (6-5), who allowed two runs on eight hits in seven innings, striking out three and walking none. Kenley Jansen, Boston's only All-Star selection, pitched the ninth for his 18th save. The Red Sox won for the fourth time in five games.

Texas starter Jon Gray (6-5) allowed four runs – three earned – on nine hits and three walks in six innings. The AL West-leading Rangers have lost eight of 12.

PADRES 5, ANGELS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Manny Machado became the career home run leader at Petco Park and drove in three runs for San Diego, which held two-way All-Star Shohei Ohtani hitless in a three-game sweep.

Ohtani was the designated hitter after leaving Tuesday as a pitcher with a blister on his right middle finger. He was 0 for 10 with two walks and two strikeouts in the series.

Machado gave the Padres a 3-2 lead when he hit a no-doubter to left off reliever Jose Soriano leading off the sixth for his 66th at Petco Park, one more than former Padres star Adrian Gonzalez.

L.A.'s Matt Thaiss tied it leading off the seventh when he greeted reliever Nick Martinez (4-3), with a homer to deep right-center.

The Padres loaded the bases with one out in the seventh and Xander Bogaerts' soft grounder to reliever Jacob Webb (1-1) brought in Fernando Tatis Jr. with the go-ahead run.

All-Star closer Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his 20th save.

REDS 9, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit a massive solo homer and two doubles after a mix-up with a covering on the knob of his bat and surging Cincinnati beat Washington.

Joey Votto also homered and finished with three hits as Cincinnati won for the seventh time in eight games. Will Benson had two hits and two RBIs for the NL Central leaders, and Graham Ashcraft (4-6) pitched six effective innings in his first victory since May 28.

Nationals right-hander Josiah Gray (6-7) allowed three earned runs and eight hits in five innings.

De La Cruz had what appeared to be an empty sensor cover on the knob of his bat. But it was removed after Nationals manager Dave Martinez questioned its use before the infielder batted in the second. Umpires reviewed the legality of the knob cover with the league office and informed De La Cruz he was allowed to put it back on his bat for his second at-bat in the third.

ASTROS 6, ROCKIES 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Yainer Díaz homered in his first two at-bats, Jeremy Peña added a two-run shot in his return from a stiff neck and Houston beat Colorado,

Díaz had a solo home run in the second inning and made it 3-0 with a two-run homer in the fourth in his first career two-homer game.

Houston starter J.P. France (4-3) allowed six hits and three runs in six innings to help Houston sweep the two-game series with its fourth straight victory and seventh in 10 games. Ryan Pressly had a scoreless ninth for his 19th save.

Randal Grichuk and C.J. Cron homered for the Rockies, who dropped their 10th straight road game. Chase Anderson (0-4) was the loser.

CUBS 4, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mike Tauchman doubled in two runs and scored in a three-run ninth inning off All-Star closer Devin Williams and Chicago rallied to beat Milwaukee.

Cody Bellinger greeted Williams (4-2) in the ninth with a bloop single to center. After Christopher Morel struck out, Jared Young singled on a dribbler to third. Both runners advanced on a ground out and Tauchman sliced an opposite-field double to left to tie it at 3.

Tauchman scored the go-ahead run when Nico Hoerner reached on a throwing error by third baseman Brian Anderson.

Michael Rucker (2-1) got the victory with two innings of scoreless relief. Adbert Alzolay threw a perfect ninth for his fifth save in six opportunities. It was the second blown save for Williams in 20 chances.

TWINS 4, ROYALS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Pablo López pitched his first career shutout, a four-hitter complete with a career-high 12 strikeouts, in Minnesota's victory over Kansas City.

López (5-5) retired 15 straight from the third to the eighth inning, including a stretch with six consecutive strikeouts, to help the Twins complete a three-game sweep.

López gave up two doubles and two singles without a walk in his first scoreless appearance since he beat the Royals on opening day.

Rookie Edouard Julien hit his second home run of the series to give the Twins the lead in the first, and Ryan Jeffers went deep for insurance in the seventh.

GIANTS 2, MARINERS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Alex Cobb had seven strikeouts in six crisp innings and combined with three relievers on a seven-hitter, and San Francisco beat Seattle to end a four-game losing streak.

Making his second start since coming off the injured list at the end of June, Cobb (6-2) allowed six hits and didn't walk a batter to anchor the Giants' eighth shutout of the season.

Taylor Rogers and Tyler Rogers each retired three batters. All-Star closer Camilo Doval pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Mariners starter Tommy Milone (0-1) was the loser.

MARLINS 10, CARDINALS 9

MIAMI (AP)—Yuli Gurriel scored from first base on a throwing error by St. Louis reliever Jordan Hicks with one out in the ninth inning and Miami Marlins rallied to beat the Cardinals.

With Gurriel on first after a single and pinch-runner Garrett Hampson on second, Joey Wendle hit a dribbler back to Hicks (1-5). The pitcher's high, errant throw got past first baseman Paul Goldschmidt to allow both runners to score.

The Cardinals' Jordan Walker hit a two-run homer off Marlins closer A.J. Puk (4-2) in the ninth to make it 9-8.

ATHLETICS 12, TIGERS 3

DETROIT (AP)—Ryan Noda homered in a three-run first inning and majors-worst Oakland went on to rout Detroit.

Oakland won for the fourth time in five games. The Athletics beat Detroit 1-0 on Tuesday night and held the Tigers scoreless for the first 17 innings of the series.

Shea Langeliers and Jordan Diaz also homered. Athletics starter Austin Pruitt retired all nine batters he faced. Ken Waldichuk (2-5) allowed three runs on two hits and three walks in 4 1/3 innings. Eduardo Rodriguez (4-5) took the loss.

Djokovic, Swiatek win; protesters, rain captured the attention

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — The developments at Wimbledon on Wednesday included Novak Djokovic joining Roger Federer and Serena Williams as the only players in tennis history to win 350 Grand Slam matches; a runner-up two years ago, Karolina Pliskova, exiting in the first round against a qualifier; a player seeded No. 8, Maria Sakkari, taking the opening set 6-0 but managing to lose.

Ho-hum. Those turned out to be among the least unusual happenings around the All England Club on Day 3 of this year's tournament. That's because so much of the buzz around the place concerned protests and, yes, rain.

Three environmental activists were arrested for interrupting matches by making their way onto court to toss orange confetti—hidden in boxes for 1,000-piece Centre Court puzzles sold at the tournament merchandise shops—and attract attention to an anti-oil organization.

"We've had enough disruptions with the weather," four-time Wimbledon semifinalist Tim Henman, a member of the board at the All England Club, said on the BBC broadcast, "but to get a disruption like that is disappointing."

The showers that were so problematic on Tuesday returned Wednesday, limiting the hours available for competition and making everyone wait and wait and wait.

"Today was a bit weird in the beginning, because there was supposed to be no rain, then it started raining," said No. 6 Holger Rune, who eliminated British wild-card entry George Loffhagen 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-2 in a first-rounder that was originally supposed to be held Tuesday. "It was a little bit frustrating at the end."

Consider: While four players who got to play at the two arenas with retractable roofs already are into the third round, including Djokovic and the No. 1 woman, Iga Swiatek, there remain 14 entrants who have yet to contest a single point in the first round. That latter group includes 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev and Karolina Muchova, who lost to Swiatek in last month's French Open final.

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic after winning the second set from Australia's Jordan Thompson during the men's singles match on day three of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

"For sure, it's really comfortable," Swiatek said after beating Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-2, 6-0 at Centre Court. "I'm happy that my matches were scheduled under the roof, so I always was certain that it's going to actually happen. It's a little bit easier to prepare knowing that."

The others moving into the third round were Jannik Sinner and Daria Kasatkina.

Djokovic, owner of a men's-record 23 Grand Slam trophies, was two points from dropping the second set against Jordan Thompson before sealing that tiebreaker with an ace, then jutting his right index finger against his temple while strutting to the sideline along the way to winning 6-3, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Seeking a record-tying eighth Wimbledon championship, and record-tying fifth in a row, he was on Centre Court — where he's won 41 times in a row — and so did not need to deal with the sorts of stops and starts endured by players such as Americans Taylor Fritz, the No. 9 seed, and Frances Tiafoe, who is No. 10.

Fritz's first-round match against Yannick Hanfmann of Germany was suspended midway through the fifth set all the way back on Monday and never resumed Tuesday. So Fritz did a lot of stewing until he finally was able to get back on No. 2 Court to wrap up his 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 triumph.

"It's tough to kind of just be sitting on that, thinking about it for like two days. You're potentially (with) 15 minutes left in a match at the very end of it, and for it to be a Grand Slam, fifth set, it kind of adds to it," Fritz said. "I spent most of the time sitting on the bench near my locker in the locker room, just like on my phone, like YouTube videos, whatever. Just killing time."

Tiafoe seemed a lot less fussed.

He and Wu Yibing of China were originally due to play Tuesday, but began Wednesday. Tiafoe won 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-4.

"It's just laughable stuff," Tiafoe said. "I ate a little bit, listened to music, cracked jokes with other players. There's not really much to do. It's not like I can go catch a movie or something. I mean, there's not much going on. Just chilling, honestly."

One of the highlights of Tuesday's schedule — 2020 U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem vs. two-time major finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas — got through just 1 1/2 sets that afternoon and so turned into one of the highlights of Wednesday's schedule.

Wound up going five sets and nearly four hours on No. 2 Court before Tsitsipas delivered one last forehand winner to close out his 3-6, 7-6 (1), 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (10-8) win.

"It was pretty stressful," said Tsitsipas, who plays Andy Murray on Thursday. "I won't lie."

17 PLAYERS

From page 24

said it's pretty much out of the frying pan into the fire as far as his coaching the CNMI's POJC team goes.

"I hadn't planned to go with the team to Fiji until Jeff mentioned that the Oceania Tennis Federation was willing to sponsor two NMI coaches. I felt honored that he asked me to join him and the team. I traveled with the team to Guam and thought that was the end of the line for me, but I readily jumped on this opportunity," he said.

Ramsey is just glad to help Team CNMI and North Pacific Team any way he can in the POJC.

"In the 12-and-under division, a coach is allowed to be on court with the players during their changeovers. I think it's a great idea since the pressure of the match can be a lot for the kids, especially in these off island tournaments. We have two 12s teams and I know Jeff can't be in two places at once. The younger kids will be my focus. As for the others, we've been working hard since returning from Guam. Strength, speed, consistency, and mental training. I was excited to share some things I've learned as a player with the kids."

He also thanked Race for the opportunity to turn a new chapter in his tennis career by coaching Team CNMI in Fiji in the next few weeks.

"Coach Jeff has always been a mentor to me. Through my own coaching, I've gained a newfound respect for all that he's done. It takes a real love for the NMI and of course tennis to do what he has for so long. We haven't talked much about my plan for coaching the kids. He gave me free reign in that regard and I'm thankful for his trust in me. I worked around his days and made sure they got as much playing time as possible."

The trip to Fiji is also sort of a walk through memory lane for the 23-year-old top-ranked player in the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation rankings.

"It has all evoked feelings of nostalgia for me. In Guam, I saw some coaches and players I recognized from my junior years. I can only imagine there will be more in Fiji to catch up with."

As for the players, all are excited for the opportunity to go off-island and compete against the best from the region.

"My expectations going into Fiji is to have an amazing experience and play my best with the great players there. I'm very excited to compete in the POJC and I hope my hard work pays off!" said Hoo Wang.

La Hunn Lam and Simon Tang pretty much echoed what Wang said.

"I am very excited to compete in the POJC with Team NMI. I will do my best to perform well. I am sure I will have great competition and a wonderful time in Fiji. I can't wait to be there," said Lam.

"I'm really excited to join because it's my first time and it's actually my last year to join. I have never been to Fiji before. I tried last year to join but it didn't come out the way I wanted it to," added Tang.

Lina Tsukagoshi said she's "extremely grateful to have the opportunity to compete in the POJC once again. I expect this year to be way harder than last year since I have moved up a level. I know some of the people I will be competing against and I am nervous but I will try my best."

For Irin Chung, she already expects to go up against tough competition in Fiji.

"I am expecting many challenging matches in the POJC this year as I will be competing in the U16 this year. The POJC only happens once every year so it gets me excited every time."

June Yu, for his part, promises to be the best version of himself playing in the POJC.

"My expectations for the POJC is to do a best match and I am very excited to go to Fiji."

JUNIOR

From page 24

connect the bat to ball in the second, third, and fourth inning, but scored three in the fifth inning. Ian Norita was brought home on a J.J. Lifoifoi double then Giovanni Mira rounded the bases from an RBI single by A.J. Evangelista.

The Cardinals didn't slow down after they scored five more runs in the fourth and fifth inning for a big 12-5 lead over the Falcons. The Cardinals had a good offensive night as almost all of them went 2 for 3 in their at-bats, with Nikko Saralu, Nate Camacho, Brian Camacho, Eli Augenbaugh, and Keoni Kaipat had two RBIs each.

Two more runs were scored by the Cardinals in the last inning and it was more than enough to get the win against the Falcons who only scored three more for the rest of the game.

The Cardinals are still the only undefeated team and are on top of the standings with nine wins, while the Junior Nats are at 6-2.

SNYDER

From page 24

told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

He said he was happy with the 7:50-minute-per-mile pace, but is kicking himself for not gunning for first.

"I didn't push it hard. I didn't think I had a chance at a place with that many people. I was off of first place by 20 seconds. Stupid me."

Snyder said the fun run was held in Grand Island, New York which is an island in the Niagara River, just before Niagara Falls.

"Right after the race, there's a pretty large parade. This year there were three different bagpipe troupes in the parade so it was pretty loud too. There were about 500 adults in the race and another 100 or so in the kids race with thousands of spectators. So we had lots of cheering."

He said the most difficult part of the fun run was the beginning as he struggled to find a rhythm with so many people jockeying for position.

As for the most enjoyable part, Snyder said it was the turn onto Grand Island Boulevard because there were two bands and lots of cheering.

And as a bonus, taking part in the Dick Bessel Independence Day Run allowed Snyder to continue his run streak that's inching closer to a comma (1,000 days of running everyday).

Snyder said he was "forced" to celebrate his 918th straight day running at least a mile by imbibing a brewski.

"I hadn't finished for more than 5 minutes before my sister handed me a beer. I'm in training for the beer mile after all. We went to the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) tent afterwards. They had beer, food, and entertainment. Then two July 4 parties. I trained hard for the beer mile!" he said.

For all his troubles, Snyder took home a custom arm light, a flashlight, and an event shirt. It's a win considering that he got pied last year during the second staging of the 2-mile 4th of July run on Saipan.

COACHES

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tol, Sheila Isla, Jacoby Winkfield, Changhwan Jang, Daniel Joab, Paul Khang, Greg Koebel, Chong Nam Lee, James Lee, James Lin, Keith Longuski, Michael Mancao, Akiko Miller, Beouch Ngirchonger, Maria Ornes, Jessica Ortizo, Micah Page, Fema Pelaez, Orrin Pharmin, Pony Tang, Leith Poole, Kina Rangamar, Lia'Mwar Rangamar, Michael Rodgers, Theodore Rodgers, Kathy Ruscala, Matua San Nicholas, Angel San Nicolas, Zarinae Sapong, Chiharu Sato, Kosuke Sato, Elizabeth Sawyer, Mike Sawyer, Cody Shimizu, Sildrey Veloria, Simon Necesito, Simon Tang, Tania Tan, Tiana Cabrera, Kathleen Tolentino, Raymund Tolentino, Leo Wania, and Kathleen Winkfield.

Coaches: Oceania athletes fared well

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some of CNMI's masters athletes of the Oceania Athletics Masters Championships pose with Oceania Athletics president Robin Sapong, far left, and Run Saipan president and coach Edward Dela Cruz Jr., far right, before an awards ceremony during the event at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The CNMI was represented well in athletics as it hosted the Oceania Cup and concurrent Oceania Athletics Masters Championships last June 22-25 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Young up-and-coming athletes to the "has-beens" of athletics past put up quite a show for their home crowd as they ran, jumped, and threw against top athletes in the Oceania region—with CNMI athletics head coach Elias Rangamar saying the team fared well in the four-day tourney.

The overall CNMI team comprised 69 athletes and Rangamar said they fared well "considering those three regions were basically all-stars or the cream of the crop from each island nation with a bigger population, while we had to represent ourselves instead of representing a region. As for the masters, we dominated as we had the most number of participants."

The speedy team Melanesia dominated the Cup and won first place, while team NMI came in last place out of five teams.

As for the Masters Championships, the CNMI had the most athletes and almost swept the whole competition. Rangamar said on their performance, "We are forever grateful for the Australian masters athletes for inspiring our NMI masters athletes with their exuberance and wisdom in showing us that age is just a number. That we can still compete and live a healthy lifestyle by staying active."

He added, "I believe this just kicked off the interest of a lot of our NMI participants to remain active and set off the stage to create our own master's program."

For the turnout of the event, Rangamar said that it was as expected, but some athletes did not make it due to visa issues—but other than that, he thought that they did another fantastic job of hosting another major event in the CNMI. He said they have received great reviews again from the off-islands athletes and officials.

Rangamar then gave a huge kudos to the organizing committee, the Northern Marianas Athletics board, the Oceania family, officials, athletes, and coaches. "A special thank you to all our sponsors Coca Cola/Foremost, ITE, McDonald's of Saipan, our hard working volunteers, Saipan Mayor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Sports Association, and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for their contributions in making this event a success."

Edward Dela Cruz Jr., who was also an athlete, official, and volunteer for the event, coached many of the athletes who joined.

He is the president of Run Saipan, the premier running club on Saipan, and many of its members represented and placed in either the Oceania Cup or the Masters Championships.

With that, he said that he is very proud of each of them. "They all did their best and had the time of their lives in the cup. They put months into training committing to their distances and I hope they were able to come away with great experiences for their next competition. They have truly earned their rest as well and should be congratulated by all for representing our island with pride and distinction."

On his performance as an athlete, Dela Cruz, who won gold in the men's 30 age group 5,000m, said "The race was fun and exciting, especially the 1,500m. It felt great to be out and running with people from different countries. It's truly beautiful to compete with people who have the same passion for the sport."

Athletics coach and Saipan International School headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, who was off-island during the tourney, said of Kaithlyn Chavez's record-breaking time in the 800m that he's been telling her she would break it ever since she came close in last year's Pacific Mini Games.

"I am so proud of her that she set it this year at the Cup in her sophomore year and have great expectations for her in her junior and senior years. She continues the strong SIS tradition of top female runners that have included Isabel, Tania [Tan], Anika [Snyder], Tiana [Cabrera], and now Kaithlyn. Watch out for her this year in Cross Country!," said Snyder.

Chavez is the new CNMI 800m record holder after she ran it with a time of 2:29.24 in the Oceania Cup.

The CNMI's athletics team members were Aaron Pamintuan, Saim Ali, Lyle Andrew, Anthony Borja, Dennis Borja, Greg Borja, Tim Brasuell, Alexander Camacho, Lawrence Camacho, Kaithlyn Chavez, Rosemarie Chisato, Colleen Cing, Casey Cruz, Sly Defang, Cheraline Epity, Kelvin Fitial, Erin Frink, Jess Gariguez, Savannah Grant, Nick Gross, Tony Ichiuo, Maria Igi-

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Call to take care of Pacific Games facilities

The Solomon Islands' National Hosting Authority is calling on the members of the public, especially those living close to the 2023 Pacific Games' facilities, to acknowledge the opportunities the country is presented with in having the brand new sports facilities and therefore to look after these properties.

These facilities include the National Stadium of Solomon Islands, and the 2023 Pacific Games venues constructed on the east and west of it, PG2023 Football Training Fields/ SIFF Academy, the Friendship Hall, the DC Park Marine Centre, and the SINIS.

The donor-funded projects includes PG2023 Games' Villages, where the People's Republic of China government constructed a 900-bed games village at SINU, Games that will become SINU dormitory post games, and upgrades of dormitories and classrooms at selected schools and institutions on the east of Honiara City.

The executive director of the Secretariat, Christian Nieng, said in a statement that the Solomons are fortunate to receive these assets from donor partners and the best they can reciprocate and show appreciation for these gifts is to take care of them.

"The sports venues are also very essential infrastructure for hosting the 2023 Pacific Games donated to us therefore all citizens must appreciate the gift given to us. It serves as the core facilities for organizing competitions, training, and other related activities. The construction and operation of the facilities are crucial for the successful hosting of the Pacific Games that we will host from Nov. 19 to Dec. 2 2023. They will become the primary stages for various sporting events this year and beyond."

It would also be much appreciated if staff and students who will use the newly built dormitory at SINU and the renovated dormitories and classrooms to look after them because these would house visiting Pacific athletes during the Pacific Games, added Nieng.

He stressed that the Solomons are lucky to have been given the opportunity to host the Pacific Games because it gives them the chance, with their partners, to build high-quality sporting facilities for the country that they would otherwise not have had it not for the 2023 Pacific Games.

"These facilities are given to us through the generous support of donor partners; hence, it is incumbent on all of us to take ownership of these assets and look after them," he said. ***(PR)***

Lumabi heads Down Under for basketball coaching program

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marlene Lumabi, center, coach for the NMI U17 Girls National Basketball Team, is in Australia for the Marty Handson Scholarship Program in which she will undergo coaching training that will entail shadowing an Australian basketball team.

Marlene Lumabi, member of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation board of directors and coach for the U17 Girls National Team, is in Melbourne, Australia for FIBA Oceania's Coach Education Program—the Marty Handson Scholarship Program in partnership with Basketball Victoria.

The 27-year-old coach, who also trains with the CNMI Senior National Basketball program, landed yesterday, July 6, into the winter season in the Land Down Under for the program designed to help prepare coaches for upcoming tournaments in Oceania.

The program only selected two coaches out of 19 active coaches in the region that were nominated by their respective federations—one from Tonga named Siale Bain-Vet and Lumabi herself.

Lumabi, who has been training in the three-month program online for the past month and a half, will head back home from her hands-on training on July 18.

The program is set into two phases—with the second phase she will undergo shadowing a National Basketball League 1 coach in an Australian-based local basketball association.

Over the course of her program, she will learn leadership and mindset, offensive concepts and style of play, defensive schemes, and concepts, planning, scouting, game play and coaching, strength and condition, physical and mental recovery, and nutrition.

Lumabi said in an interview on her transit to Australia that she is "ready to learn new techniques to bring back home! Very excited and open-minded."

She is most looking forward to learning new strategies for both practice and games. "In addition, I'm eager to observe basketball players of all ages to see how they are treated both on and off the court," she said.

On the opportunity to train in the program, she said "Receiving the Marty Handson scholarship is an honor and a blessing. I'm excited and eager to learn new things and deepen my knowledge of basketball. I'm also looking forward to hearing from other coaches about the experiences they had and the difficulties they overcame."

The program was named after former head coach Marty Handson from Victoria County, Australia, who passed away in 2016. He was involved in the development of athletes and coaches across all levels of the basketball community and his program supports empowering national federations through boosting grassroots programs, enabling access to coaching development across the region.

Phillies beat the AL-leading Rays for their 11th straight road victory.

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17 players, 2 coaches off to POJC today

MARK RABAGO

CNMI players that will be part of the North Pacific Team in the 2023 Pacific Oceania Juniors Championships in Nadi, Fiji pose for a group photo after practice with coach Jeff Race, third from left.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI will be sending 17 players as well as coaches Jeff Race and Colin Ramsey to this year's Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Nadi, Fiji.

Joining the North Pacific Team are boys 16's Henry Choi and June Yu, girls 16's Hoo Wang and Irin Chung, boys 14's LaHunn Lam, Si-woo Lee, and Nason Wessel, girls 14's Hannah Chae, Anne Lee, and Lina Tsukagoshi, boys 12's Ryan Choi, Michael Jeon, and Daniel Kang, and girls 12's Stella Choi, Vivian Chung, and Jenna Pascual.

"As usual we're the biggest team in the Pacific. I think as a team we'll have a pretty solid performance. Our girls 12 team won the North Pacific Regional Championships and they are young but can do some damage. LaHunn Lam will be one of the top seeds in the boys 14 and has some strong teammates. But Fiji is the best in the region and there are very few easy matches," said Race.

Ramsey, who will be making his coaching debut in Fiji,

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Junior Nats, Cardinals overpower opponents

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The red-hot Junior Nationals and unbeaten Cardinals overpowered their opponents in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season on Monday and Wednesday.

The Junior Nationals, fresh off a tourney in Palau, didn't skip a beat with their first game back home as they stole away with the win against the Bandits on Monday, 7-3, while the Cardinals shot down the Falcons, 14-8, on Wednesday.

The Junior Nats put four on the board in the second inning after a quiet start to the game. They took advantage of the free base on balls to Joel Deleon Guerrero and Justin Camacho who were brought home from RBI singles by Charlie McDonald and Jylon Sablan.

Joell Borja then reached base, stole second, and came home on another base hit by J.R. Suel.

The Bandits had only one run in the first and coming out of the third inning, were down 2-5. They went scoreless in the next three innings as they went down in order on pop flies and ground outs and had only three men reach base—an error to Jess Iguel, a walk to Jay Camacho, and a hit by pitch to Charlie Wabol.

The Junior Nats were also scoreless in the fourth, fifth, and sixth inning, but were still up by three runs in the last inning.

They managed to find openings on the field and add on to their lead as Sablan hit a double, followed by an RBI double by Borja, who then reached home on another double by Achilles Evangelista.

The Bandits were only able to tack up one more run in their last at-bat for a 3-7 final.

In the Cardinals-Falcons game, the Cardinals went big in the third inning as they scored six runs from back-to-back singles from the heart of their lineup. A big two-run RBI double made it 7-2 Cardinals after the Falcons drew first blood in the first inning.

The Falcons then couldn't

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LEIGH GASES

The Junior Nationals' Joel Deleon Guerrero waits for the pitch during one of their games in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Snyder finishes 2nd in age group in NY 4th of July run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan secretary and treasurer Dr. Ron Snyder takes a selfie while running the Dick Bessel Independence Day Run last July 4 in Grand Island, New York.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan secretary and treasurer Dr. Ron Snyder missed this year's 3rd Annual 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race, but took part in the Dick Bessel Independence Day Run then messed around and came in second in his age group.

The 57-year-old Saipan International School headmaster completed the 2.3-mile long fun run in 18:02 and barely missed first place in the 55-60 division.

"I am here visiting my sister and father. The course was pretty fun. It was so foggy in the morning that you couldn't see across the bridge but it kept the heat down—definitely an advantage for other runners. Coming from Saipan, I was looking forward to the heat and seeing what it did to my competitors (insert evil laugh)," he

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